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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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VOLUME I

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10 Fairbanks, Alaska

11 March 9, 2001

12 8:30 o'clock a.m.

13

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15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Ronald Sam, Chair

18 Raymond Collins

19 Henry Deacon

20 Angela Demientieff

21 Benedict Jones

22 Jack Reakoff

23 Michael Stickman - (Telephonic)

24

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26 Coordinator; Vince Mathews

## P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to call the Western Interior Regional Council meeting to order. Vince, would you do the roll call?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And then at the end of the roll call, I need to call Micki, Micki's waiting. We didn't know exactly when we were going to start. Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Carl Morgan is absent due to travel to Washington. Angela Demientieff.

MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

MR. JONES: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

MR. DEACON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Micki Stickman, we'll get on line right after this. Samson Henry is absent and I think Ron will speak about that a little bit here. That's it. We do have a quorum, Mr. Chair, and I'll just walk over and get Micki on line.

CHAIRMAN SAM: The next item on the agenda is introduction of Council members and sharing of concerns and topics. But before I begin, I've got some kind of virus and I'm hard of hearing, my ears are stuffed this morning, but I can hear good enough -- yeah, Tina, I can hear good enough, thank you.

For your information, I got a call this morning at 7:00 o'clock from Sam Henry, one of our Council members, and his brother passed away about 6:30 this

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1 morning. He's been taking care of him as much as he could  
2 at this time, so at this time I would like just a brief  
3 moment of silence in remembrance.

4  
5 (Moment of Silence)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I guess I knew  
8 it was coming and I was worried about it for him. I'd like  
9 to thank all the Council members here that are present.  
10 Does the Council want to share their concerns at this time  
11 or just introduce yourself for the time being.

12  
13 Jack.

14  
15 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff from Wiseman.  
16 The only concern that I had that I would like the Council  
17 to be aware of is that there was this March 1 to March 10th  
18 moose season that the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
19 tried to stop in the Bettles area and there was a -- this  
20 was on State land, but it was the State throttled the hunt  
21 down to three days but there was still really high harvest  
22 there. This area around Bettles is getting to be really  
23 heavily hunted and I'm getting very concerned with the  
24 harvest levels around Bettles and on the Dalton Highway.  
25 I've been working on numbers on the Dalton Highway to make  
26 regulatory proposals for this next year on, you know, right  
27 now I am working on trying to determine the size of the  
28 population that would normally be harvested on the Dalton  
29 Highway and what could be reasonably harvested there and  
30 there needs to be a regulatory change for the Dalton  
31 Highway. It's my feeling that a drawing hunt for the  
32 general hunt would be the best way to go about controlling  
33 the number of hunters there. So in the Bettles area and  
34 the Dalton Highway area from the Bettles are between road  
35 access on the ice road into Bettles and then the air taxis  
36 flying people out of there, this upper Unit 24 moose  
37 population is, I feel is being used extensively and I just  
38 want the Council to be aware of my concerns with this  
39 escalating hunting pressure in that area.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Could you  
44 work on a quick resolution or proposal to bring before the  
45 Board of Game on this because we haven't really been  
46 hitting this hard enough on the Koyukuk River Advisory  
47 Committee meeting?

48  
49 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, the Board of Game  
50 doesn't visit that area until, I think, January of 2002, so

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1 this next cycle at the Koyukuk River Advisory level and the  
2 Western Interior, I would like to have proposals next fall,  
3 I would hope to have proposals to start alleviating some of  
4 these tensions, you know. As we squeeze the balloon in the  
5 Lower Koyukuk, pressure goes other places and some of these  
6 populations are kind of having poor calf productions. You  
7 know, I think we're going to have to try to work on getting  
8 some control on this.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you done, Jack?

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to start over here  
15 with Henry Deacon, hearing from -- oh, Vince.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we just need to check,  
18 Micki, can you hear us on line?

19

20 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, can people in the back  
23 of the room hear Micki well? Thank you. Okay, so we do  
24 have Micki on line, we'll have to ask his concerns probably  
25 later on. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead and get them right  
28 now while I can hear him loud and clear. Micki, can you  
29 hear me, go ahead and state your concerns.

30

31 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, you mean you're  
32 talking on about Jack's proposal?

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: All Council members concern  
35 within your area or out of the area.

36

37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The one concern that  
38 I have with the moose management is that, you know, on the  
39 State side, the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee putting in  
40 a proposal for a five day restriction for the winter moose  
41 hunt. The regulations stayed the same for the fall hunt  
42 but Glenn Stout from Fish and Game was putting in a  
43 recommendation of no cow hunt, so -- but every year, you  
44 know, we do an antlerless reauthorization and this year we  
45 did the reauthorization but we did it with minus five days  
46 for the February hunt. It is a moose hunt over in Kaiyuk  
47 and numbers did look pretty good over there, though, for  
48 the Kaiyuk Flats area.

49

50 And one thing that the Council should know

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1 is that the guys from Kaltag and the guys from Nulato have  
2 been doing quite a bit of wolf hunting this winter.

3

4 So that's about the only concerns that I  
5 have right now, is that, we will be having five days of  
6 less hunting in the winter, which is good, I guess. It was  
7 -- it originally started out as a five day hunt anyway to  
8 begin with so that's the only concern that I have right  
9 now.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. I'd like  
12 you to keep that item on board and revisit it at your next  
13 Middle Yukon Advisory Committee meeting. At this time I  
14 would like to ask Henry if he has any concerns.

15

16 MR. DEACON: I'm from Grayling. I do have  
17 a lot of concerns here, the moose population is really  
18 declining in that area, some of it is sporthunting and  
19 there's more wolves down there than ever before. So those  
20 are two big concerns about moose population. And I don't  
21 know what Innoko Refuge is doing about those or the State.  
22 So, so far since about December, nine moose have been  
23 killed around the Grayling area and that's just around the  
24 town by wolves. So something's got to be done in that  
25 area.

26

27 And sportfishing is kind of a concern for  
28 our area, too, there's too much sportfishing going on. We  
29 can tell the Innoko River by -- for the past few years,  
30 it's not like how it used to be, when we used to fish pike,  
31 that we catch them that easy, no it's no more. There's  
32 something going on with the catch and release system up  
33 there.

34

35 Another thing is the subsistence, the big  
36 issue with the local people in the area, is how to be --  
37 how to fish, you know, when to fish and that's a big issue  
38 and the subsistence way of life for people like me that's  
39 been doing it for many years. But it's one of the things  
40 that we have to learn how to live in but not regulate it so  
41 much that we just kind of -- and I don't think that sending  
42 food to the village to subsidize that shortage, is not the  
43 answer. Because not all people -- you know, they don't --  
44 they can't eat Army stuff that's been canned years ago, you  
45 know, we need something that's from around our area, some  
46 fish that you can get now and then, anything that's  
47 available there and use it wisely. Because, us, Native  
48 people, we know how to use our -- when we need it we get  
49 it, and that's one of the things in the -- so the wolves,  
50 like I said before, it's getting so bad down there that

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1 people is hunting them. We as a village, in Grayling, we  
2 pay \$100 for every guy that catch wolves, you know, so so  
3 far there's few but it's so woodsy down there, you can't  
4 really get them, you know, there's 10, 15 in a bunch right  
5 there below Grayling. They try to get in the woods so, you  
6 know, those kinds of systems should -- something should be  
7 done on the State side or the Federal.

8

9

10 And I'd like to see more as Innoko Refuge  
11 should be studied like the Koyukuk area because that's the  
12 last place that the people will be coming into now, and  
13 it's nothing really regulated there. It's not studied.  
14 It's not studied. The moose population is going down to  
15 zero and nothing's really going on or being studied about  
16 it. So those are the things that's really of concern from  
17 my area.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry. I think  
22 we'll be hitting on some of these items as we go along  
23 throughout the agenda so you'll have more chances to bring  
24 this back up. Benedict Jones.

25

26 MR. JONES: This is Benedict Jones from  
27 Koyukuk. I just wanted to touch a little bit on what Micki  
28 said. The reason why we want a reduction to five days is  
29 so people wouldn't overharvest the cows in the winter hunt  
30 and there'd be less cows taken if there was only a five  
31 days season opening. And as for Henry's concern about the  
32 wolves, there is a trapper from Bettles area that does do  
33 wolf snaring education in the villages and he had wolf  
34 snaring education last year in Allakaket, Hughes, Huslia  
35 and Galena and I attended that training session and it was  
36 really helpful. And since that time, people started  
37 harvesting quite a few wolves with snares after that  
38 education and maybe this will work for your area since it's  
39 really a wooded area. So anywhere there's kill site, it'd  
40 be good to put a lot of snares out there.

41

42 That's all I have, thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Ray  
45 Collins.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Right in the immediate  
48 McGrath area we have the problem of not having much Federal  
49 lands so a lot of the things we work on here doesn't  
50 directly impact us and we're having to work closely with

1 the State. As you know, we've been working this last year  
2 to try to get a plan in place that would reduce predation  
3 because our moose numbers are going down. But in relation  
4 to that, we may have a total closure of hunting around  
5 McGrath because we're not producing enough moose now to  
6 meet the local needs.

7

8 And we were having a discussion in the  
9 planning sessions there talking about one of the things we  
10 wanted to do is to work more closely with some of the air  
11 taxis and guides. We see a lot of meat going through  
12 McGrath that's coming off Federal land and other lands.  
13 And at least in the short-term, when we can't get enough  
14 moose locally, if more of that meat came in in good shape,  
15 we could distribute it to make sure that elders got it. I  
16 thought that perhaps systemwide, there should be a closer  
17 look at that, maybe on the part of the Refuges and Parks  
18 and others where there is -- well, not Parks, but the  
19 Refuges, where there is non-resident hunting, air taxi  
20 guiding and so on. Some of those people don't want all  
21 that meat and we've had all the concerns with wanton waste.  
22 Maybe there should be a more -- what do I want to say,  
23 formal or way of informing those hunters that if they  
24 brought in meat in good shape, that there are people in the  
25 village that would receive that and make use of it. I know  
26 people prefer to get their own but the hunting's going to  
27 go on anyhow and there's waste going on. Could we maybe do  
28 something in that area, long-term, it would certainly make  
29 relationships better. I know, even on the Koyukuk we talk  
30 about that's so far that by the time a lot of people haul  
31 that meat back to Fairbanks, it's spoiled, even if they  
32 brought it all the way in. Whereas if it was brought into  
33 a village within a day or two of being killed, it could be  
34 utilized there.

35

36 But it's something for us to think about, I  
37 think, long-term, of looking at trying to make better use  
38 of that or prevent waste by having it donated and used.  
39 Just a thought.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, for bringing  
44 that subject up again. We are looking at it and trying to  
45 utilize this program to alleviate some of the problems up  
46 around the Koyukuk River, too. So when and if we do make  
47 some improvements or anything into actual use, we'd like  
48 you to have the information available.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela Demientieff.

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Angela Demientieff from  
4 Holy Cross. And I share all the same concerns as Henry  
5 that he's already spoken to about the moose, but especially  
6 the Innoko River. We need more help on the Innoko, we need  
7 people to come out there and look at what we have left --  
8 what's left of our fish and study them because they're not  
9 there, even though the biologists say they are. We know  
10 they're not, we live there. We need more help on the  
11 Innoko River.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. I think  
16 sometime during this Council meeting we will try to address  
17 some of those issues and try and update everything on  
18 problems in the GASH, Innoko area. Thank you. Yeah,  
19 Vince, I don't see the agenda adoption in our agenda, so at  
20 this time I think I would like the Council to go through  
21 the agenda real quick and see if they want to make any  
22 changes or additions. Take a couple minutes.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, in the future, I  
27 would like to right after roll call and establish quorum,  
28 I'd like the agenda adoption and minutes right in a line so  
29 we can get those things over with before we go into Council  
30 member concerns. The next item, Vince.

31

32 The reason I brought this up is because  
33 Item IV, proposal review and recommendations and Item V,  
34 the Koyukuk River Moose Management problems in Units 21 and  
35 24, I think they are integral and we can utilize both Item  
36 IV and V at once. I see three tables with three different  
37 mikes up there so I would like to go -- as soon as we go  
38 into proposals that we utilize both Items IV and V at once  
39 because they do interact around each other.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Just so  
42 the Staff understand then, basically the discussion on the  
43 Koyukuk River Moose Management plan and the Koyukuk Basin  
44 Moose Co-management Team update and all that would be  
45 covered during proposal review, correct?

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: How does the Council feel?  
48 I would kind of like to hear from both the Koyukuk River  
49 Basin and the State Moose Co-management plan before we go  
50 into these proposals so we can kind of zip through it,



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1 because they do tie into each other. Council member  
2 comments. If we can kind of make these two presentations  
3 kind of short and review everything that we've gone through  
4 from both the Koyukuk River Moose Management Team and the  
5 Koyukuk River Basin people, then I think just a quick  
6 review of our plan, both plans and then I'd like to go into  
7 proposals. I think we can zip through it right there and  
8 alleviate a lot of testimony and other stuff. Is that fine  
9 with all the Council?

10  
11 (Council nods affirmatively)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Under B, I mean ongoing  
14 wildlife issues, we have Koyukuk River moose, Units 21, 24,  
15 2000 hunting season results moose population and status  
16 report. Is this Glenn Stout or is it Randy Rogers?  
17 Because a lot of our proposals that we have to go through  
18 ties in with this -- Vince.

19  
20 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, I was consulting with  
21 someone else. What Randy is politely saying is you have  
22 introduction before if you so need and approval of your  
23 minutes from the last meeting, I think is what he's  
24 indicating, we jumped over a few items so he's being very  
25 polite.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, sorry about that.  
28 Before we go into minutes, then how do we handle the  
29 introduction, do you want to handle that, introductions?

30  
31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the way we did it  
32 yesterday but maybe not appropriate for this meeting is  
33 just when people came up to the mike, had them introduced,  
34 I suppose that would be my recommendation again today.

35  
36 For the record, though, for other Staff  
37 that have come and all the agencies, State, Federal,  
38 private and Native, please sign in in the back. It becomes  
39 very important for meeting records for correct spelling,  
40 correct spelling for the transcript and for minute-taking.  
41 Also we're going to be using what are called the green  
42 cards in the back, that's similar to what other boards do,  
43 that if you want to testify you fill that out and then it's  
44 passed to the Staff and moved forward. This Council and  
45 all the Councils in the Interior generally have when the  
46 issue requires people to be up at the table, invite them up  
47 if they so desire also. So the cards will help us with  
48 testifying. The scheduled times for testimony are to allow  
49 other people to target time that may be at work or  
50 whatever. And I'll remind you at 11:00 o'clock that we

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1 have public testimony at 11:00 and at 5:00, for those that  
2 need to testify at a specific time and not maybe when the  
3 issue is right before the Council.

4

5 So with that, I think that's it.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. I do have Virgil  
8 Umpenhouer signed up so I would appreciate it if you do use  
9 these green forms. Does that take care of the agency  
10 introduction?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, if you'd like to use  
13 that same way that we did yesterday and then maybe in the  
14 future we'll go back to having everybody introduce. But if  
15 they would just sign in and then when they come to the mike  
16 identify themselves.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, just for your  
19 information it's still my feelings that the sign in sheet  
20 to testify at 11:00 o'clock and 5:00 o'clock was targeted  
21 for village use and I would appreciate it if you do testify  
22 when we call on you and you can also sign in on this and  
23 request time.

24

25 Next item on the agenda is the approval of  
26 minutes for the October meeting at Nulato. Do you want a  
27 few minutes to glance through it?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, they're in your  
30 file folder, in your blue file folder towards the back. I  
31 wasn't able to get them into the meeting books so they're  
32 in your file folder towards the back and this would be for  
33 the October 4th and 5th meeting in Nulato.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move  
36 approval of the minutes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we need a few minutes or  
43 has everyone gone through it?

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 MR. JONES: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

50

1 MR. JONES: There was one item, and I don't  
2 have the minutes of the Nulato meeting but there was one  
3 item in the minutes that we tabled for this meeting.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you remember that, Vince?

6  
7 MR. MATHEWS: No, I do not. Benedict, do  
8 you remember what it was about, was it about moose?

9 MR. JONES: I'm not sure, but we tabled  
10 something to this meeting.

11  
12 MR. MATHEWS: Because I know you guys  
13 attend -- all of you, yes, pretty much all of you are on  
14 advisory committees so it's possible it was something that  
15 was covered by the advisory committee. I don't know, I'll  
16 ask other Staff if there was some other item that we  
17 deferred to this meeting.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the Council and the  
20 public has to bear with me, too, I'm in a different frames  
21 of mind it seems like we've been meeting for a couple of  
22 days already so I forgot all about this Western Interior  
23 stuff.

24  
25 (Pause)

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I would like to  
28 give Benedict a couple more minutes to target this, if  
29 possible.

30  
31 (Pause)

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to save me  
34 from more embarrassment, the copy machine didn't cooperate.  
35 All the minutes you have in front of you only have the odd-  
36 page numbers, so I'll try during break to get you the full  
37 minutes. But the two notebooks that I have here only give  
38 you the odd pages so you only have half. So it might be  
39 wise to wait until later and I can get you copies of these  
40 and you can bring it up later on the agenda to approve it.  
41 I apologize for just getting you the odd pages.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. At this time I would  
44 like, with the consent of the Council members to defer  
45 adoption of the minutes. Okay.

46  
47 (Council nods affirmatively)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. Now, going back  
50 to where I was, different agencies, we have the Koyukuk

1 River Moose Management plan and Koyukuk River Basin group.  
2 Yes, before we go into the proposal I want these numbers  
3 out in front of us as far as 2000 hunting seasons results,  
4 moose population and quick review of the plans, I think we  
5 all know that it's been working. Go ahead, Randy and  
6 Glenn, go ahead and state your name and your position for  
7 the record.

8

9 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Chairman Sam,  
10 members of the Council. For the record my name is Randy  
11 Rogers. I'm wildlife planner with the Department of Fish  
12 and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. I'll give you  
13 a brief update on where we are with the plan, really  
14 focusing on just what's taken place since our meeting in  
15 Nulato last time and try to keep it relatively short and  
16 then Glenn Stout will follow-up with a little update on  
17 some of the numbers in terms of population and harvest  
18 data.

19

20 I'm happy to be here again to provide you  
21 with an update on activities related to the Koyukuk River  
22 Moose Management plan. My hope is that the Council would  
23 vote today to recommend the proposed final plan for  
24 endorsement by the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence  
25 Board. In follow-up from the meeting in Nulato, the first  
26 significant activity that occurred was October 30th we did  
27 conduct a presentation on the plan and discussion in  
28 Allakaket with the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
29 meeting. As you'll recall that's the one village that we  
30 didn't cover during the previous round of public meetings  
31 when the plan was in draft stage. So at that meeting we  
32 were able to provide information about the plan to the  
33 committee and to some of the local residents who were  
34 present. We had a good discussion overall. One thing we  
35 didn't succeed in doing at that time was developing  
36 specific ideas for measures that might be needed to  
37 increase protection of moose populations and subsistence  
38 use up in the northern part of Unit 24. You know, Jack  
39 just suggested some specific ideas and we've all be  
40 wrestling with trying to decide what could be done there.

41

42 As you guys are aware, we kept the plan as  
43 a draft after the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence  
44 Board meetings last spring and kept it open for public  
45 comment. The public comment period was announced in the  
46 newsletter we sent out last May. We received very few  
47 written comments, though. We actually got a total of six  
48 comments and the main emphasis of all those comments was to  
49 eliminate non-resident hunters from the general hunt  
50 drawing. Those comments came primarily from a group of

1 hunters that is from the Homer area and their concern was  
2 that if there's going to be limitations on the hunting  
3 levels, that Alaska residents should have the first  
4 opportunity. Pretty much every comment we received also  
5 noted the importance of predation in terms of the total  
6 moose mortality there and concern that we do more to manage  
7 predation levels.

8

9 Last fall at the Ella's Cabin check  
10 station, I was there for one week, of course, Glenn was  
11 there nearly the entire time, but I think most all of our  
12 staff were getting a lot of positive feedback on the  
13 changes that had taken place in the hunt there. You know,  
14 we were getting positive comments on the improved situation  
15 from both the local and the non-local hunters. There was  
16 definitely less crowding, a better hunting experience. But  
17 despite the fact that it seemed that we were getting a lot  
18 of positive feedback, we thought we should take a little  
19 extra effort to find out what all the hunters were actually  
20 thinking and so we designed a little survey that we sent  
21 out to every single hunter who had registered at either the  
22 check station or in Huslia or Hughes and that would include  
23 the general drawing permits as well as the subsistence  
24 permits. We color-coded those surveys so that we could  
25 distinguish the responses between the general drawing  
26 permits, the subsistence permits and whether folks were  
27 from the local area, Alaska residents outside the local  
28 area or non-residents.

29

30 A couple of the key results from the  
31 survey, I think overall it did verify the comments that we  
32 had gotten at the check station, that folks thought there  
33 had been some improvement, significant improvement in the  
34 hunting situation. Let's see, 57 percent of the responses  
35 rated satisfaction with the fall 2000 hunt outstanding or  
36 highly acceptable. Another 27 percent rated the hunt as  
37 average. So there's very few that actually thought the  
38 hunt was not as good. Seventy percent of the respondents  
39 thought that the regulation changes were needed. That  
40 seemed to be pretty broad-based among both local and non-  
41 local folks, but looking specifically at the response from  
42 local hunters, 83 percent thought the regulation changes  
43 were needed.

44

45 So I think that helped and the survey data  
46 was presented to the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter Working  
47 Group in their meeting held December 8th, 2000 and the  
48 specific purpose of that meeting was to review the plan,  
49 review the public comments, results from the survey and  
50 consider if changes were needed to the plan or to the

1 regulations before the plan would be advanced to the Board  
2 of Game and Federal Subsistence Board for approval. We are  
3 also lucky that it worked out, one of the representatives  
4 from the Huslia area had dropped off the working group and  
5 Jack Wholecheese was able to participate in that meeting on  
6 behalf of Huslia. At the meeting the working group  
7 recommended that further meetings be held on, at least, an  
8 annual basis to monitor the plan and that there was a need  
9 to continue, considering whether changes might be needed  
10 down the line.

11  
12               You know, just as a refresher, the plan  
13 lays out initial regulation changes, many of which have  
14 been accomplished and gives a general discussion of, if  
15 further cutbacks and harvest are needed, how that should  
16 occur. First, reducing non-resident, then the resident  
17 general hunting and lastly, going to subsistence and, you  
18 know, potentially Tier II if essential. But there's still,  
19 you know, a fair amount of leeway for specific things that  
20 could happen within there and so, you know, I think there  
21 really is a need to continue meetings with folks to  
22 evaluate the situation and if significant changes were  
23 needed, even if the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence  
24 Board moved to support the plan and endorse it, any future  
25 regulation changes would need to go through the full  
26 Advisory Committee, Council and Board processes. At that  
27 meeting we spent considerable time reviewing the harvest  
28 rates and procedures for determining the permit numbers to  
29 be issued for the general drawing hunt. In the end the  
30 group recommended issuing the same number of permits as had  
31 been issued for the year 2000, which was 258 total permits  
32 and the group did agree that we should seek endorsement of  
33 the plan from the Board of Game and Federal Subsistence  
34 Board. In fact, I'll be going down to Anchorage tomorrow  
35 and most likely on Sunday, presenting the plan to the Board  
36 of Game to seek their support.

37  
38               Just briefly, I've passed out copies of the  
39 proposed final plan that will be presented to the Board and  
40 is very few changes from the draft that we had before, but  
41 I'll note just a couple of those things for your  
42 information.

43  
44               We've updated the executive summary,  
45 introduction and background information to include some of  
46 the activities that have taken place since the previous  
47 draft was prepared and also a little bit additional  
48 biological information. We've added the Koyukuk River  
49 Moose Hunter Working Group recommendation to continue  
50 meetings on, at least, an annual basis or as needed.

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1 Beneath each action in the plan I inserted a status  
2 statement to describe what has been done with the  
3 implementation. Many of the regulations have already been  
4 adopted and so that's clarified what the Board has actually  
5 done. There's other actions in there that are more long-  
6 term that will take, you know, hopefully will be  
7 implemented over a longer period of time, you know, for  
8 example, the Department working with the Fish and Wildlife  
9 Service for habitat improvement.

10

11 Last fall, the Board of Game established  
12 the intensive management population and harvest objectives  
13 for Unit 21(D) and 24. The actual numbers established by  
14 the Board are included in this proposed final plan.  
15 There's also a little bit more information in there to  
16 clarify the harvest rates in the Koyukuk River controlled  
17 use area. And a short description of the process used to  
18 determine the number of permits that we would issue each  
19 year in the Koyukuk River controlled use area.

20 In a nutshell, those are the major changes  
21 that have taken place. So it's pretty close to the same  
22 draft that we had before, just updated.

23

24 And I'd be happy to answer any questions  
25 but maybe for now, if it's your pleasure, we can have Glenn  
26 add a little information on population and harvest and then  
27 open it up for questions, however you'd like. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, thank you, Randy. Are  
30 you going to be around all day?

31

32 MR. ROGERS: I'll be around as long as the  
33 Council needs me. You know, I've got a little preparation  
34 to do for the Board of Game, so you know if this goes on  
35 all day and we're considering the Koyukuk all day, I'll be  
36 here all day.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think, you know, one of  
39 the reasons that I ask you to come on early is because we  
40 will go into proposals right after this so I would  
41 appreciate it if you'd stick around for those proposals.

42

43 MR. ROGERS: Yes, definitely I'll be here  
44 for the proposals and I've got -- Glenn will take the lead  
45 on the proposal comments but I probably have a few cents of  
46 my own to throw in, and comments there, too, but I'll wait  
47 for the proposals for that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. Glenn,  
50 quick update. I know we covered most of this at Nulato.

1 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Glenn  
2 Stout with the Department of Fish and Game in Galena. As  
3 far as the harvest information, I'll just go through a few  
4 of the numbers and compare this most recent fall season to  
5 the prior year. This season we had 511 hunters check in to  
6 the controlled use area, which includes the check station,  
7 Huslia and Hughes. This is a little bit uncomparable to  
8 the previous year because as you know, we expanded the  
9 permit area so we had additional hunters that are being  
10 counted in this tally. But even at that, that 511 total  
11 compares to 736 for just the area down stream of Huslia the  
12 year previous. As far as the harvest, this most recent  
13 year we had 278 moose harvested which is broken down by 11  
14 cows, 266 bulls, one unknown, compared to last year we had  
15 369 moose harvested, of that was 93 cows, 275 bulls and one  
16 unknown. So the biggest notable decrease in the number of  
17 harvests was a drop in 80 cows that were basically saved  
18 this year versus last year. I think that's the most  
19 substantial increase event, I guess, that occurred this  
20 most recent year. And then the number of hunters that was  
21 decreased by basically just over 200 hunters. So I think  
22 those two alone were the most dramatic impacts.

23  
24 As far as the trend count information that  
25 we got done that I wasn't able to update the Council last  
26 year, what I'd like to do is just stand up there and I  
27 don't know if I can get the mike up there but I just wanted  
28 to explain a little bit, something that's going on with our  
29 new trend count efforts that we're doing.

30  
31 As you know one of the things that we  
32 struggled with in doing our survey, our moose surveys, is  
33 with budgetary constraints, we can't do these broad  
34 population estimates for these large areas every year. We  
35 just can't afford to do it every year. And one thing that  
36 we have been able to do consistently is the smaller trend  
37 count units. So what our statisticians and staff and we've  
38 been working with Fish and Wildlife Service to try and  
39 improve our ability to get an annual population estimate.  
40 And so we've come up with and we're working on developing a  
41 new technique over there. Basically the idea is a little  
42 bit of a change. For instance, in 21(D), where we have the  
43 sample unit, typically we would count small blocks in the  
44 area, like down by the Kaiyuk, up at Three Day Slough, over  
45 on Pilot Mountain and Squirrel Creek and Long Stretch,  
46 wherever it happened to be, but we couldn't get a  
47 population estimate for those areas we would just get these  
48 annual trend count areas and we'd use, primarily the  
49 composition data to help us get that, but getting an  
50 estimate for the whole area is something that we've really



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1 been lacking. So with this new survey strategy that we're  
2 working on now, we basically put a grid across the whole  
3 game management unit and it's broken up in blocks and then  
4 we'll select some of these that are important that happen  
5 to lie over our old trend count areas to maintain some of  
6 that data continuity, but we'll also randomly select some  
7 of these sample units throughout the whole game management  
8 unit to help us. And then statistically we can go through  
9 and try and come up with a population estimate on an annual  
10 basis. And the difference that this method has from the  
11 previous ones is that we aren't going to be doing as many  
12 of these sample units but over time, on an annual basis,  
13 then it will help our confidence limits now and start  
14 giving us a better picture of what that population estimate  
15 is.

16  
17 One of the changes that we encountered this  
18 year and one of the things we're working on is, for  
19 instance up at Three Day Slough, where the river comes  
20 here, here's the Kateel, Three Day Slough comes around here  
21 or something like that, our trend count area was --  
22 basically took place all inside the Three Day Slough area,  
23 a small area over here as well, but it was based mostly on  
24 the drainage that is encompassed within there is where we  
25 counted moose. And when we set up this design, these  
26 blocks, didn't necessarily overlap perfectly with the old  
27 trend count area so we're trying to keep some continuity in  
28 the data analysis that we can compare the area, the block  
29 that is inside our new trend count area but make that  
30 transition to the new method that the blocks happen to lie  
31 within, or something like this.

32  
33 And so when we did this, for instance, on  
34 Three Day Slough, the old trend count area that was done  
35 inside there was about 89 square miles, and the new trend  
36 area with all this other area outside of it is actually  
37 going to end up getting counted, it was something like 150  
38 or 160 -- we haven't done it yet, but that's what that  
39 measurement's going-- and down on Kaiyuk, for instance, it  
40 was about 80 or 90 square miles and that's going to get  
41 bumped up to almost 170 square miles so it's going to be a  
42 larger block of area and we want to maintain that  
43 continuity.

44  
45 And so what Fish and Wildlife Service and  
46 Guy Hughes there at the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge is working  
47 on is using the GIS to extract the information from the  
48 moose that were just counted inside the old trend count  
49 area portion of the total area that we counted. And they  
50 can do that because we took GPS units up with us in the

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1 plane and we -- every time we saw a moose we logged it in  
2 the GPS and if it happened to be on that side of the line  
3 from the old trend count area then it won't be used in that  
4 analysis. And so some of this data that I have right now,  
5 we haven't gone through and basically taken the cookie-  
6 cutter and subtracted that out, it's still that large area.  
7 And the density information is probably not real  
8 comparable, but I think the composition information still  
9 gives us a good insight on what's going on. Because I  
10 think that's a ratio piece of data that should still stay  
11 the same.

12

13 So just a few of the numbers that I wanted  
14 to give on that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy, would you hit that  
17 mike over there?

18

19 MR. STOUT: As Micki mentioned Kaiyuk  
20 Slough was one of the few areas where our calf numbers were  
21 still up. We counted 27 calves per 100 cows there in the  
22 Kaiyuk Slough, that was about the only area that was  
23 actually above that target objective of a minimum of 20,  
24 hopefully manage between 20 or 30 calves per 100 cows for a  
25 stable population. And the rest of them were pretty much  
26 substantially lower.

27

28 Let's see at Treat Island, we had 11 calves  
29 per 100 cows, the Dulbi Mouth we had 16 calves per 100  
30 cows, Squirrel Creek we had 14 calves per 100 cows. And  
31 this is basically going into our third year where our  
32 calf/cow ration is in decline. We also seen now our second  
33 year where our yearling bull/cow ratios are also low and I  
34 think that goes right along with what we're seeing, where  
35 calves are down and then the next year we see a decline in  
36 our yearlings too. So those are our big concerns and I  
37 don't have all the data yet. I think I was going to try  
38 and get that finished information. Once we get that  
39 excerpt of information so it can be more comparable then  
40 we'll get that together and send out, but at this point  
41 until we get that sorted, it's kind of compare it and so  
42 we'll still be working on that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you done?

45

46 MR. STOUT: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Jack, you  
49 had a question?

50

1 MR. REAKOFF: What was your yearling bull  
2 ratio in the Three Day area?

3  
4 MR. STOUT: The Three Day Slough one we  
5 didn't actually get done yet. I'm scheduled to fly that  
6 and we had problems, we never did get the snow up there  
7 until about the second week in December and so we're still  
8 waiting to do that. We won't be able to do composition  
9 information up there unfortunately but I can get percent  
10 calves in the total population and have something to  
11 compare and then get a total count.

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: Well, what was your yearling  
14 bull ratio in the other areas that you did?

15  
16 MR. STOUT: On Huslia Flats we had four  
17 yearling bulls per 100 cows, Treat Island we had two  
18 yearling bulls per 100 cows, Dulbi Mouth, six. We did do  
19 some trend areas further up in Unit 24, for instance,  
20 Henshaw Creek, Kanuti Canyon, Middle Fork and Wild River,  
21 and I think that Lisa and Tim Krieg were going to be  
22 talking about those later on. But the numbers up there,  
23 those ratios are tougher to get at because you're counting  
24 so many fewer moose up there.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

27 MR. COLLINS: Do you attribute the lower  
28 ratios basically to predation then, increased predation  
29 going on there?

30  
31 MR. STOUT: Well, we haven't done a study  
32 specifically to demonstrate that that's in fact what's  
33 going on so we can't say definitively that's true. But I  
34 think all indications are that that's the case. We have  
35 documented an increase in the number of wolves up there.  
36 We have a lot of circumstantial evidence, fish camp  
37 problems, nuisance bear problems where people believe that  
38 bear numbers are increasing up there. And we know, for  
39 instance, that hunters aren't shooting calves and  
40 yearlings. And you can pretty much explain the decline  
41 just in sheer numbers that being that lack of those most  
42 recent cohorts, the calves and yearlings missing matches up  
43 pretty much with that whole number of what the population  
44 decline is. So if the hunters aren't the ones taking out  
45 the calves and yearlings and we can get that by the harvest  
46 information then I think it's starting to show a pretty  
47 strong picture in that direction.

48  
49 MR. COLLINS: The winters have been good  
50 then so there's not a weather factor in there?

1 MR. STOUT: We've had real good winters.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Did you do a calf composition  
8 in the summertime to see how the cows were producing as far  
9 as twins and how the calf production was going?

10

11 MR. STOUT: I do spring twining survey up  
12 on Three Day Slough and we did that this year and it was  
13 actually a good year. We had high calving rates, somewhat  
14 lower twining rates but we did have really adequate calving  
15 rates.

16

17 MR. REAKOFF: What was your twin rates?

18

19 MR. STOUT: I would have to look in my  
20 packet, I don't know those off the top of my head.

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: All right. Going back to the  
23 planning group, I'm not sure why the planning group with  
24 the 258 permits, with the reduction in the numbers of  
25 moose, why did the planning group want to maintain that  
26 high of harvest? I would like the Council to understand  
27 their reasoning, if possible?

28

29 MR. ROGERS: I can start off on that and  
30 Glenn might very well have more to add on it.

31

32 Initially Glen had recommended a cut back  
33 in the number of permits and was projecting -- you know, we  
34 didn't have new data but the data that he had from the  
35 previous year was showing a decline so he was going to  
36 project the decline as continuing with the lack of data and  
37 cut back the harvestable surplus appropriately. So when  
38 the working group took a close look at that, there's also a  
39 number of variables in there that we really didn't have  
40 good information on. You know, first of all, you know,  
41 there was 258 permits issued that last year but in terms of  
42 the total participation 103 of those people never showed up  
43 to hunt. So you know the allocation to the general  
44 harvest was based on a presumption that there would be a 65  
45 percent rate, a success rate, but included every person  
46 that got a permit. The bottom line being that Glenn's  
47 calculation of the -- and correct me if I'm misstating  
48 things here, but had determined that we could take 168  
49 moose under the general permits. The actual harvest was  
50 109. So what the working group did was consider some of

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1 these variables and say, well, okay, even if we do have a  
2 10 percent decline, that if we issued the same number of  
3 permits with the lack of hunters actually going out there,  
4 that the group felt that the overall harvest would still be  
5 within the sustainable harvest guidelines that are laid out  
6 in the plan.

7

8 And there is a little bit of risk to that  
9 and Glenn and I both pointed out that if we go that way,  
10 and if we do have the decline going on, that what that  
11 could end up meaning is a double cutback the next year if  
12 our data shows that that trend we projected was actually  
13 happening. The other safety net in place is that we will  
14 have a harvestable surplus calculated for that fall hunt.  
15 And, you know, that, as you know, takes into account the  
16 fact that there will be the winter harvest and that's  
17 subtracted off the top. That's reserved so that we don't  
18 have to close those winter seasons that are so important to  
19 locals.

20

21 But, you know, Glenn will have an emergency  
22 order prepared to cut off the season, you know, should we,  
23 this year, you know, get a change in the situation that we  
24 have a much higher percentage of the permit winners  
25 actually go there and hunt and conditions are right for  
26 high success rates, we'll be prepared for that.

27

28 And another consideration of the working  
29 group was that we took a major cutback in the level of the  
30 general hunt last year. And if we go ahead and do another  
31 cutback this year, which would start getting to the point  
32 where non-residents are almost non-existent in terms of  
33 permit numbers there, and very few general permits for  
34 Alaska residents and if we don't have data to show that  
35 that's really justified and absolutely needed, that we're  
36 kind of going off a little bit on a limb and we could end  
37 up losing support among the hunter public that we've had so  
38 far for the plan.

39

40 So those are some of the parts of the  
41 discussion that took place, with the bottom line being that  
42 the group felt reasonably confident that with these  
43 safeties in place, that issuing the same number of permits  
44 would still result in the harvest being within what is  
45 calculated to be the sustainable level.

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: Unfortunately I had family  
48 problems and I couldn't make that meeting. It's a  
49 rudimentary calculation that if you have 10 percent decline  
50 in moose population that you should have at least a 10

1 percent reduction in the harvest capacity. With these kind  
2 of recruitment numbers, I mean how does the working group  
3 -- where is their foundation for sustaining this moose  
4 population at that harvest level? I cautioned the  
5 Department last year at our Council meeting that I felt  
6 that, you know, the seven and a half was too high to start  
7 with. The way I calculate the recruitment numbers, seven  
8 and a half is too high. So I have a problem endorsing the  
9 plan, you know, right now -- I would endorse the plan with  
10 the provision or the amendment that I feel that those  
11 harvest levels are too high. There should be reductions to  
12 stay -- and that's what we talked about at that planning  
13 group, was to stay within the parameters of the moose  
14 population and not try to get arbitrary with setting  
15 numbers of harvest because the population fluctuates. And  
16 I would be more comfortable endorsing the plan if it's  
17 staying within the parameters of what the moose population  
18 can endure. And if the area biologist feels that there is  
19 a 10 percent decline in the population there should be a 10  
20 percent reduction in the number of permits, at the minimum.  
21 That's the way I feel about it.

22  
23 That would be, you know, that's just the  
24 way it is. I mean if your bank account's running out, you  
25 got to tighten your belt or budget, you know, you got to  
26 budget your moose. So that's just my position on that. I  
27 don't agree with the working group on maintaining the 258  
28 permits when the population has declined. And these  
29 yearling numbers that Glenn just gave for the few other  
30 areas is showing a mean of eight percent for calf yearling  
31 production -- would be about a mean of eight percent. But  
32 with the high predation, adult mortalities have to be very  
33 high, they have to be exceeding 15 percent. So the  
34 predation is up and your population is falling, you know  
35 it's going down so you have to begin reducing harvest and a  
36 10 percent reduction in the numbers of permits this year  
37 would not be unreasonable I feel.

38  
39 So I would -- when it comes to endorsing  
40 the plan, I'm going to have to have a reservation on that  
41 provision.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. I was at  
44 that meeting and I missed you but there was a few -- I  
45 endorsed the plan as it is. I didn't fight the non-  
46 reduction. I wanted to see another year of the plan and  
47 the numbers that Randy threw up, I just didn't see any real  
48 reason at that time to reduce anything. I guess what I'm  
49 saying is, I've spent too many years working on this plan  
50 that I just wanted to see it work another year before we

1 made any changes. Plus if we use the numbers, we could  
2 have our people -- the applications, turning in  
3 applications -- because a lot of people didn't show up and  
4 that's what I was thinking about. Because no matter what  
5 we do we're going to have controversy down there. We do  
6 have the moose numbers in the whole damn state -- and the  
7 whole 50 states know about this, and I think that they're  
8 coming up one way or the other and I felt at that time that  
9 I couldn't really make any emergency cuts as long as we had  
10 that emergency order in place for closure.

11  
12 If the numbers keep declining, what I want  
13 to do or what I look forward to doing is to put  
14 restrictions in place like we have on the Kanuti controlled  
15 use area where only local hunters can utilize calls and  
16 only local hunters can utilize winter and early fall or  
17 early -- late fall seasons. Without those -- with the  
18 numbers being what they are, I felt that I couldn't really  
19 ask for anymore cuts.

20  
21 Anything else, Jack?

22  
23 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I'm not saying I don't  
24 like the plan, I am very satisfied with that planing  
25 process and how it brought people together and how people  
26 understood each other, the sport hunters and the  
27 subsistence hunters, I think it was a very successful  
28 process. But I do feel that the gist of what I was going  
29 for when I was testifying at those meetings was to stay  
30 within the parameters of the population and the biologist  
31 requested, maybe too much, and maybe the working group --  
32 but the working group should have, at least, reduced a  
33 little bit. And that's just my position. But I would like  
34 to see the plan work. That's what I would like to see, is  
35 that it will work out to where the harvest will stay within  
36 the parameters and that, you know, everybody will -- the  
37 local people will get their meat and there will be a little  
38 left over, you know, for the other hunters. There are  
39 other hunters that have a lot of political pull in this  
40 process.

41  
42 A 10 percent reduction, I don't feel is  
43 unwarranted. If you have a 10 percent decline of  
44 population, 10 percent reduction in permitting would be --  
45 it seems only logical to me, but I wasn't at the meeting  
46 and things went by me and I'm just stating that right now.  
47 That's what would have been my position, I would have been  
48 talking heavily under that line. But Ron's been around a  
49 lot longer and he's got more experience with these things  
50 so I respect his position also.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Glenn.  
2 Randy.

3  
4 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair and Jack, I think one  
5 thing that I want to emphasize that going into this year,  
6 the working group did not change my projection for the  
7 population estimate. I still projected that 10 percent  
8 decline and I think since the time of that meeting that we  
9 have had fairly good confirmation that things were probably  
10 continuing as we expected.

11  
12 The bottom line is how many moose are  
13 harvested. And so based on that projected decline, we came  
14 up with a harvestable surplus for that area. That  
15 harvestable surplus is lower than what it was last year.  
16 And that is the basis for what our new EO will go into  
17 effect this year regardless if we even put out more  
18 permits, the harvestable surplus is lower now. And we will  
19 be putting it in place if we do approach that new lower  
20 harvestable surplus, and that's pretty much the bottom  
21 line.

22  
23 So the way I see it, although it's risky  
24 that -- for the hunter that's in the field, that they could  
25 get shut down in the middle of their hunt, the working  
26 group felt like, because of the way we did those  
27 calculations, you remember we kind of had to say well 65  
28 percent success rate and, you know, there was some fudge  
29 factors in there, they felt like that was going to even out  
30 and they wanted to see that go again, but they did not  
31 change my decision point which is the number of moose that  
32 are going to be shot.

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. That's  
34 what I based my decision on by not fighting on the 10  
35 percent decline. Jack.

36  
37 MR. REAKOFF: The risk there is that the  
38 general hunters may attain their harvest but the reduction  
39 in the total moose to be harvested may have to be  
40 accomplished in the winter hunts and that's what I would  
41 not want to see is the subsistence hunters may have to --  
42 you know, that narrow margin that's left over might have to  
43 be reduced in the winter hunts and that's what I would like  
44 to steer clear of, is the subsistence hunters taking any  
45 kind of cut.

46  
47 MR. STOUT: That's still a constant, that  
48 winter harvest is taken off the top first, the subsistence  
49 is taken off the top first and we still will shut down the  
50 season to still allow for that constant winter harvest that



1 we've seen over time.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: I see. All right, good.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, that was the  
6 basis for my decision, that winter harvest Unit 21 and 24  
7 is locked in, those numbers are taken right off the top,  
8 plus the area itself voluntarily reduced their hunt from 10  
9 days to five days and I made it clear at that meeting that  
10 they have to utilize the first five days which they are  
11 granted for subsistence hunting, that the winter hunt and  
12 the first five days were locked in. I expect those numbers  
13 to be in place as soon as possible and that's one of the  
14 reasons I based my decision on that.

15

16 Jack.

17

18 MR. REAKOFF: Well, then I feel a lot more  
19 -- I didn't understand that point that those subsistence  
20 numbers are locked in there. If you can, by EO, control  
21 the number of general hunts, then I feel way more  
22 confident. So I didn't quite understand that the  
23 subsistence numbers are locked in but how -- when you issue  
24 258 permits, you know, how are you going to decide when  
25 you're approaching this cutoff point, how are you going to  
26 stop the hunters that are in the field that have permits?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn.

29

30 MR. STOUT: We talked about this last year  
31 when we faced this same situation where we were thinking  
32 that maybe we would see a flood of subsistence or non-local  
33 people using the subsistence option to come hunting and we  
34 talked with the troopers and we were prepared to go camp to  
35 camp up there and the good thing about the controlled use  
36 area is everybody is pretty much accessible. You know,  
37 they're right there on the river. Trooper Gibbons has the  
38 ability with his plane to just land from camp to camp and  
39 get the word out. We were watching the harvest real  
40 closely. We had check stations there at Ella's Cabin where  
41 we were seeing everybody coming out and monitoring harvest  
42 and then every day Trooper Gibbons was dropping in on me  
43 and letting me know what camps had moose and who was up  
44 there, we knew who was up there because of our check-in and  
45 check-out time. So I just feel real confident that we have  
46 the ability to monitor the harvest during the season as  
47 well as get the word out if we need to.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, remember one of  
50 the ways we cut down our hunters out in the field is that

1 we have two different times that they could go out, the  
2 first 14 days and overlap with the second surge out there,  
3 second pulse if you want to call it.

4

5 Any more questions for Randy or Glenn?

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Yes, what were the numbers on  
12 the ones who were going out as a trophy hunt, how did they  
13 register, how did that break down?

14

15 MR. STOUT: The breakdown is as follows and  
16 I've got a sheet here that I can pass out to you so you can  
17 look at it more in your leisure. There were four different  
18 hunts, 27, 28, 29 and 30, and we issued in the two non-  
19 resident hunts, we issued 26 permits for each of those  
20 hunts. In the first season of the 26, only 21 of them  
21 showed up. In the second season, only 22 of the 26  
22 permitters showed up. In the two resident drawing hunts we  
23 issued 103 permits per hunt. In the first hunt 49 of the  
24 103 showed up and then in the second hunt, 60 of the 103  
25 showed up. And so that ended up with basically 103 of the  
26 permits issued did not show up which Randy suggested  
27 earlier.

28

29 Success rate of the Alaska residents, the  
30 83 that showed up, we had a 76 percent success rate. The  
31 non-residents had a 60 percent success rate. So it was 72  
32 percent overall which is a little bit above, for instance,  
33 we had talked about in our calculation of that permit, we  
34 had talked about 65 percent success rate which we projected  
35 based on previous years. It is higher than that but if you  
36 were to go back and just count those no shows as  
37 unsuccessful, then that would bring it way below it so it  
38 kind of depends on how you want to look at the data.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Is there a trend among those  
41 to donate meat more than others since they were trophy  
42 hunting or what's going on in that area? I think that would  
43 be a target group that might be encouraged to donate more  
44 moose in the villages.

45

46 MR. STOUT: We talked about this in the  
47 working group quite a bit and we talked about this locally  
48 and it's kind of a touch issue because we don't want to see  
49 wasted meat and if an individual is inclined to do that, we  
50 show them the regulations and the trooper and myself do

1 have knowledge of individuals within the communities that  
2 are looking for meat if that comes up. As a rule, though,  
3 I don't try and encourage non-local hunters to do that  
4 because I believe, personally, that the modern hunting  
5 ethics suggest that if you are in the field to hunt, you  
6 should be looking to take care of that meat yourself for  
7 your own purposes. And so I'm not really, as a rule,  
8 trying to encourage donation of meat because I think that's  
9 somewhat contrary to that ethic, where hunters should be  
10 hunting for that. So we do provide that but I don't really  
11 try and encourage it too much.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, one of my biggest  
14 concerns about this subsistence rule is that we have too  
15 many non-local subsistence users and I think that's one of  
16 the issues that Jack is targeting in the Upper Koyukuk, and  
17 my comments -- my written comments and my oral comments  
18 have been clear that we are accommodating too many non-  
19 local subsistence users. If there's any way we can address  
20 this issue, I'd like to know how and I'd like everyone to  
21 keep that in mind, because no matter -- we're just getting  
22 hit from the Dalton Highway all the way to the station  
23 issuance of permits at Galena. That's one of my biggest  
24 concerns and I just don't know how to address this issue at  
25 this time but I want everybody to keep that in mind, the  
26 non-local subsistence users.

27  
28 Are we done with the working group? Henry.

29  
30 MR. DEACON: It's a very interesting report  
31 what you're doing for your area. It's really making me  
32 think of my area too, that that kind of work program should  
33 be implemented, because I think you've done a very good job  
34 for what's been requested of you the last three or four  
35 years. And I'd like to thank all of you, especially  
36 Orville and we should have more people like Orville within  
37 our area in the next five or six years to encourage our  
38 local people to go to college and study what they're  
39 supposed to be studying.

40  
41 These are the my thoughts as an elder to  
42 try to work into, and you know those are really important.  
43 I know sporthunting is really hurting our area, you know,  
44 but I'd like to know what -- from what I hear it costs five  
45 to \$10,000 a moose, you know, that's what they get, they  
46 say. And none of us here really know, you know, how much  
47 moose we've been selling -- it's not -- I don't know what  
48 to do about those things, those are serious things. Most  
49 of the things that I have concern about, Jack expressed it,  
50 you know, when is the stop line? When are we going to say,

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1 it's enough? Jack was trying to get to that point and I  
2 appreciate that Jack was saying those things, it's very  
3 important. When are we going to stop and say, we got to  
4 start increasing -- we should have a number saying that we  
5 have to go up instead of decreasing all the time, we got to  
6 go up, not go down every year, every year, we should  
7 increase every year, our populations.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: I also would like to  
14 compliment everybody that's been working in this group  
15 because I know we were the ones that requested it and  
16 pushed for it and it's good to see that some good things  
17 are happening. I also share Henry's concern, I hope that  
18 we can use this model and implement it other places where  
19 issues are, like in the Innoko, where there are growing  
20 issues.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Vince.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, in response to Henry,  
25 Henry, later in the agenda we'll be talking about the  
26 preliminary discussions on setting up a process for the  
27 GASH area. That was touched a little bit on yesterday when  
28 we discussed the fish projects, Henry, that there was some  
29 money that was available for looking at -- and we'll come  
30 up with a better term as we move this along, but some kind  
31 of conflict resolution forum or some kind of conflict forum  
32 for the GASH area and that's going to be discussed later in  
33 the agenda. So there is positive movement which two  
34 meetings ago, if I remember correctly, this Council sent a  
35 letter to the State encouraging that and then has, in two  
36 or three annual reports requested that. So now it looks  
37 like all the forces are lining up to have some kind of  
38 process in the GASH area. But we'll need your assistance  
39 and Angela's assistance and the full Council's assistance  
40 in making sure that we get village support for that to make  
41 it work and other interest groups. So that will be  
42 discussed later but I want to make sure Henry knows that  
43 his request over the years is now finally getting close to  
44 having some kind of process.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Henry,  
47 for your information, this Koyukuk River Moose Management  
48 plan and membership of this, the people that took part in  
49 developing this plan and everything is being looked at  
50 throughout the state. The people from the coast are

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1 looking at it and just for your information we have been  
2 pushing for a copy of this plan to be put in place for the  
3 GASH/Innoko area, but then again it has to be brought forth  
4 -- the issue has to be brought forth by the local  
5 residents. We fought tooth and nail to get this on the  
6 floor but we are addressing the issue and we will be also  
7 addressing the issue of the user conflict within the fish  
8 management for your area, so we are working on it. It's  
9 just a matter of putting it in place. And for the public  
10 and for Council member's concern, by spending so much time  
11 on this I think that after we get over with this and Mike  
12 Walleri, we'll go directly into proposals and after that I  
13 don't see anything on the agenda that people really have to  
14 show up for, if that's fine with everyone. Are you done  
15 Randy and Glenn?

16  
17 MR. STICKMAN: Chairman Sam, I have a  
18 concern for Randy and Glenn.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micki, go right ahead, I'm  
21 sorry if I missed you there, I'm just used to looking at  
22 people on the table. Go right ahead, Micki.

23  
24 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. The one concern that  
25 I have is people from -- these are Alaska residents but I  
26 did talk to some people that drove up the Koyukuk River and  
27 they did their hunting but they went up the river and they  
28 went outside of the controlled use area. I was wondering,  
29 is there a lot of people that do that? Because if they're  
30 going that far up and, you know, they're going into  
31 traditional subsistence users area, if they're going  
32 outside of the controlled use area.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, do you have an  
35 answer?

36  
37 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair, Micki, we did have  
38 quite a few hunters that decided they wanted to try the  
39 Kateel and that was pretty much the only area that they  
40 really took that option. Mostly it was people where they  
41 had a party of hunters and maybe two or three out of a  
42 party of four or six drew permits so they had it in their  
43 mind that they were going to try to hunt there on the  
44 boundary of the controlled use area and I think they  
45 learned their lesson in one year that it's not going to be  
46 very effective. Because the water level on the Kateel is  
47 real unpredictable. They tore up a couple motors, the  
48 people trying to get up there. And the moose density,  
49 basically drops off pretty substantially once you get  
50 outside of the controlled use area upstream of the Huslia.

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1 There was a lot of people in there trying that option I  
2 really didn't get any very good responses back from hunters  
3 that tried that. They just weren't very happy with it.  
4 And I really think that that is going to take care of  
5 itself.

6

7 I am aware of one boat that drove all the  
8 way up past Huslia and up Hog River, other than the guided  
9 individuals, there was only one group that took that upon  
10 themselves to try that option and they got back, they got a  
11 couple moose, but they were all pretty tired, they were  
12 pretty weary from the trip and I think that there will be  
13 very few people that will try that option as well. So as  
14 far as people accessing the Koyukuk controlled use area  
15 just outside of it, I don't think that's something that's  
16 going to happen.

17

18 Another potential that we watch for is  
19 maybe some roll-off over onto the Nowitna River. And I  
20 think last year, 1999, I think we had like 152 hunters in  
21 that area and we watched that real closely and this year we  
22 had 154. I think it was about that, a real negligible  
23 response in that respect. But throughout the Yukon, you  
24 know, we are going to continue to watch that and it will  
25 certainly be something we will watch for in the future.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn.

28

29 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, thanks Glenn. The  
30 guys I did talk to were the guys that went up to the Hog  
31 River.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. I think  
34 we're beating on a dead dog now, can we -- okay, Benedict.

35

36 MR. JONES: Yeah, Randy, I was just looking  
37 at your -- on Page 25, Action 3-1-1 grizzly bear, has the  
38 Board taken any action on this, taking grizzly bear on a  
39 yearly basis instead of every four years for no-residents  
40 and then residents?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. We  
43 have two proposals, I think there's two or three proposals,  
44 or at least one on our agenda addressing this issue, too,  
45 is that the one you're talking about?

46

47 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, I believe you're talking  
48 about 3.1.1 there, and there is a brief status statement  
49 there that indicates the Board of Game did adopt the  
50 recommended regulation changes so that you can take one

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1 brown bear per year in Units 21 and 24. That counts  
2 against the one bear per four years that applies in any  
3 other areas of the state. Do you have anything further on  
4 that? So basically that has been implemented and, you  
5 know, hopefully will increase the harvest of predators  
6 there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict, for your  
9 information, we did cover bear in Unit 21 and 24 yesterday  
10 and we will be discussing this brown bear permit. Has  
11 there been any kind of efforts to harvest these brown  
12 grizzly bears by guides in this area?

13

14 MR. STOUT: I think that they probably  
15 would if they could but I think the demand is a real  
16 problem.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. For your  
19 information it's just one of our ways of trying to  
20 alleviate the situation by granting more hunting time to  
21 the local guys that we do have in this area. Are we done?  
22 Randy.

23

24 MR. ROGERS: I just wanted to make a quick  
25 comment for the benefit of folks in the room here. Since  
26 we just started referring to this proposed final version of  
27 the plan, I was unable to make enough copies to have a  
28 stack available but it is almost identical to the one that  
29 shows up in the Western Interior book with the very few  
30 exceptions I noted. So, you know, folks could refer to the  
31 one in their book and it would show close to the same thing  
32 but would not include that status statement, which I just  
33 read.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you.

36

37 MR. ROGERS: I apologize for that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we pretty much done?  
40 Okay, I'll just ask that you two be around for our proposal  
41 deliberations. Mike Walleri, did you have anything to  
42 present before we go into proposals? Mike Walleri is the  
43 attorney for the Koyukuk River Basin Co-Management Team.  
44 How many of your team members are present and are you still  
45 affiliated with Tanana Chiefs?

46

47 MR. WALLERI: No, I'm not still affiliated  
48 with Tanana Chiefs. At the current time none of the  
49 Koyukuk River Team Members are here at the present time.

49

50 But I would like to make a couple of

1 comments in terms of the plan itself. As you are aware  
2 there are three proposals from the team that are currently  
3 on the agenda and the -- but to just recap some of the  
4 issues about the plan itself. Frankly, we've come a long  
5 way since 1997 when this process started. And I think that  
6 it's a fair observation to make that this planning process  
7 has brought the hunters working group and the K-River team,  
8 the State and Federal officials much closer in terms of  
9 their understanding of what's going on out there and what  
10 should be done to regulate and preserve the moose  
11 population.

12  
13 But I think it's important to recap where  
14 we've been on this controversy. In 1998 and 1999, actually  
15 up through the end of 1999, the current situation was very  
16 different than it is today, in terms of the regulatory  
17 system in place and the perceptions of the populations of  
18 moose in the Koyukuk River. In 1998 and 1999, actually  
19 through December of 1999, the ADF&G was estimating that the  
20 population of the moose in GMU 21(D) and 24 and, of course,  
21 within the Koyukuk controlled use area was much higher than  
22 we are estimating today. They were basically suggesting  
23 harvest rates within those two GMUs at seven percent at  
24 that time. The villages within the region that formed the  
25 K-River team and its predecessor generally had a different  
26 view, believing that the moose population was in severe  
27 decline and primarily through cooperation and advocacy by  
28 the Federal biologists in the area, this perception was  
29 clarified and we saw that, in fact, yes, as of January in  
30 year 2000, ADF&G substantially revised downward their  
31 population estimates of the moose in these two areas on a  
32 magnitude of about 15 to 20 percent. Those are fairly  
33 large adjustments.

34  
35 As a result of that, what is interesting  
36 though, is that the plan today continues to estimate  
37 harvest levels at the same level that was predicted or was  
38 suggested back in December of 1999, and that is on the  
39 order of a magnitude of seven percent, between seven and  
40 eight percent harvest rates. And if you take a look at the  
41 plan today, you see the same situation within the Koyukuk  
42 controlled use area and both GMU 21(D) and 24.

43  
44 It's also important to note that there's  
45 been some significant changes in some other information  
46 that needs to be considered. In particular, there was a  
47 great uncertainty as to what the -- from a regulatory  
48 standpoint, what the amount of subsistence harvest was  
49 needed to be allocated to meet subsistence need. The Board  
50 only, last year, the State Board of Game, only last year



1 reviewed this issue with regards to 21 and 24 and adopted  
2 determinations of need for 21 and 24 as a whole without  
3 taking a look at what the actual need in 21(D) should be.  
4 And of course, the Board has not even today calculated what  
5 the harvest of subsistence -- what the harvest is needed to  
6 meet the subsistence need in the Koyukuk controlled use  
7 area.

8  
9 As you're aware, the K-River team made a  
10 proposal for a special action request to limit the non-  
11 subsistence harvest which was denied by the Board,  
12 primarily because of the commitment to the planning  
13 process, and I want to address that in just a second.  
14 Because that seems to be the primary articulated desire  
15 here and, that is, what we need to do is we need to support  
16 the planning process because we -- or the plan and we need  
17 to support these harvest levels because we're committed,  
18 politically, to the plan, not that we're engaged in  
19 scientific management of the population of moose in the  
20 area. And I want to say, very clearly, that while this has  
21 been a very good political process and the politics have  
22 been played very well here, good politics is no substitute  
23 for good scientific management of the moose. And we have  
24 to take a look at these numbers.

25  
26 With regard to the plan itself, a couple of  
27 points. Where are we now in terms of what the plan is  
28 proposing and where the team, the K-River team has been  
29 advocating that we should be going? We're actually very,  
30 very close. And some of the discussion before the group  
31 pretty much articulated some of those concerns and the  
32 points of disagreement between the plan and the position  
33 that the K-River team has historically always advocated in  
34 favor of, the biggest issue is the harvest level. The K-  
35 River team has always argued, since its inception that what  
36 they want is a five percent harvest rate for the GMU 21(D),  
37 24 and the Koyukuk controlled use area. What is currently  
38 within the plan is a seven percent harvest rate in 21(D), a  
39 7.5 percent harvest rate within the Koyukuk controlled use  
40 area, and a five percent harvest rate in GMU 24, outside of  
41 the Koyukuk controlled use area. And so what we're  
42 basically talking about, 2.5 percent at the maximum.

43  
44 Additionally, there is no -- one of the  
45 interesting parts about the plan is that it does not  
46 indicate what the subsistence harvest need is for the  
47 Koyukuk controlled use area. As a practical matter, if you  
48 take a look at the calculations on Page 44 in the proposal  
49 book, you'll see that the area biologist is using a figure  
50 of 250 moose for the Koyukuk controlled use area as being

1 necessary for subsistence management. That's a good  
2 number. That's a good number. And as I understand it, we  
3 agree with that because that's the best that we have  
4 available. But there's nothing in the plan that says that  
5 that 250 moose within the Koyukuk controlled use area on an  
6 annual basis needs to be allocated to subsistence, it's not  
7 in the plan. It should be in the plan.

8

9               Secondly -- or thirdly, there's a question  
10 of the authorized permits and there's a lot of discussion  
11 in the plan and it really is a philosophical issue here but  
12 it's also a legal issue and, that is, that the regulations  
13 in place currently authorize 400 permits in the Koyukuk  
14 controlled use area. There is absolutely no support  
15 anywhere in the plan under any scenario to authorize the  
16 issuance of 400 permits for general hunts in the Koyukuk  
17 controlled use area. And as you've heard today, the State  
18 has no intentions of ever -- at this point of ever issuing  
19 up to 400 permits. But the regulations allow for it. And  
20 what that plan says is that the -- and what it will be  
21 argued in the future is that subsistence advocates came in  
22 and said we can agree to issue 400 permits, that's what the  
23 regulations are. That's what's in writing. And how many  
24 times have we heard the situation, where Native people,  
25 several years after the fact, somebody come back to them  
26 saying but you said back in 1998 that we could have 400  
27 permits here, and the answer is, yes, that's what you said.  
28 That's what's in the regulation. That you can have 400  
29 permits.

30

31               Now, it's going to be pretty difficult in  
32 1996 -- or I mean in the year 2006 or 2005 to come back and  
33 said, yeah, but what we really meant was 258 because that's  
34 what they told us they were going to issue back in the year  
35 2000, is 258. If you mean 258, say 258. Go on the record  
36 and say it. If you mean 155 permits, say it, in the  
37 regulation.

38

39               CHAIRMAN SAM: Are you arguing this plan?  
40 Are we in court session here?

41

42               MR. WALLERI: No. No, I'm arguing against  
43 the plan. I'm suggesting that there be some modifications  
44 to it. And I realize, Mr. Sam, that you support the plan,  
45 but I believe that what we're saying here is that there are  
46 problems with the plan and there are serious problems.

47

48               CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49

50               MR. REAKOFF: Having attended the planning

1 process, it was understood that to harvest the moose within  
2 the parameters of the moose population, it was understood  
3 at that time that they didn't want to have any more than  
4 the '98 level of hunters, that was an unacceptable level of  
5 hunters. So if you take 258 subsistence moose hunters and  
6 you add 400 hunters to that, that approach is this level of  
7 1998 and that's where that came from. They had to make  
8 that provision -- or the Department wanted to allow that  
9 provision of 400 permits in case the moose population got  
10 really large, but they wanted to be able to harvest up to  
11 the maximum amount, which the group had decided was the '98  
12 level. That's where the 400 -- up to 400 permits came  
13 from.

14  
15 MR. WALLERI: I'm really -- yeah.

16  
17 MR. REAKOFF: And I would have appreciated  
18 it if yourself would have been at those meetings to  
19 understand those parameters.

20  
21 MR. WALLERI: No, I was, I actually watched  
22 some of that process. I was at some of those meetings.

23  
24 MR. REAKOFF: I know that, Mr. Walleri, but  
25 you were there sporadically and that's why you don't  
26 understand why this 400 cap was put on there, that's the  
27 reason.....

28  
29 MR. WALLERI: Well.....

30  
31 MR. REAKOFF: .....in case the population  
32 got to 10,000 moose and they needed to harvest these moose  
33 or wanted to harvest these moose, they wanted to have that  
34 provision on there. And that's why there's various  
35 misunderstandings of what was going on in this planning  
36 process because.....

37  
38 MR. WALLERI: Well, I would seriously  
39 disagree with you. There is no misunderstanding. Because  
40 it gets back to a philosophical question. Yeah, you're  
41 talking about authorizing 650 people to harvest moose in  
42 the area and you're -- I agree with you that that was the  
43 reason for it but you have to understand that when we were  
44 approaching 650 people harvesting moose in the area, what  
45 we're talking about is a 10 to 12 percent harvest rate  
46 which decimated the area. And when you make that decision,  
47 if you get to that level of authorizing 400 permits and  
48 there's nothing in the plan that says -- that suggests that  
49 at any point could you ever authorize 400 permits, the  
50 point arises that.....

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

2 MR. REAKOFF: That's another  
3 missimpression. You're stating that the seven percent --  
4 or the harvest is what curtailed this population. It's our  
5 understanding going through a lot of predation factors that  
6 the wolf population and the bear population is documented  
7 as increasing and is the primary cause of the decline of  
8 this population, it wasn't primarily induced. Hunting has  
9 somewhat of a factor but primarily predation was a factor.  
10 If wolf numbers declined, rabies went through the  
11 population may -- and in the '80s was producing at 20 to 30  
12 percent increase which would accommodate up to a large  
13 human harvest. I mean it's misnomers as the harvest --  
14 human harvest was the cause of the decline of this moose  
15 population. It's our understanding, through the planning  
16 process, the predation is documented and is increasing and  
17 that's what the main cause of the decline is.

18  
19 MR. WALLERI: Well, I don't think that's a  
20 misunderstanding. The problem is that the only control  
21 mechanism you have and this is a part of the plan that I  
22 think everybody agrees on, the only thing that you have a  
23 handle on is human predation. You don't have the ability  
24 to seriously deal with the predator, non-human predator  
25 activity, because it's primarily gets you into wolf  
26 control.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have  
29 and are you going to be present during our deliberations on  
30 these proposals?

31  
32 MR. WALLERI: Yes, and I very much  
33 appreciate the openness with which you're receiving my  
34 comments.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the next time you  
37 appear before us I will ask somebody from the solicitor's  
38 office out of Anchorage to be here, maybe that would even  
39 us out and make us feel not so intimidated. Because we are  
40 not prepared to try any case here or anything.

41  
42 MR. WALLERI: I guess the last point that I  
43 wanted to talk about gets back to some of the things that  
44 we've talked about here already and that is, what is it  
45 that is the trigger here? And one of the things that the  
46 K-River team has constantly said, is that, what we want to  
47 do is propose a system which plans for the maintenance of a  
48 high level of moose population in the area. What has  
49 happened here, as a practical matter, is a reactionary  
50 response and we're kind of seeing that in the current

1 determination of permit levels. And that is, we wait until  
2 there's a 10 percent harvest reduction and then we  
3 implement after the -- after the moose are dead, we  
4 implement some kind of regulatory action. The idea here  
5 and what has been advocated from the beginning from the K-  
6 River team is the idea that we start off and we plan ahead  
7 of time to produce a certain amount of moose and that we  
8 not be reacting to declines. And that what has happened  
9 here is kind of a ramped down process, in other words, we  
10 saw large declines so we increased the limitations. We're  
11 seeing smaller declines so we increase the limitations some  
12 more until you get to a point where the limitations have  
13 some kind of effect.

14

15 Another way and another approach to that is  
16 to start off and say, wait a second, this is how many moose  
17 we can harvest, this is what our population level is, let's  
18 shoot for that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Point well  
21 taken, and how much more do you have because next time you  
22 appear before us as a Council, I would request that  
23 somebody from your Koyukuk River Basin Co-Management Team  
24 make all the presentations and arguments. I think that  
25 will make us all feel better. If you have too much more  
26 we'll have to cut you off at some place. I'd like to go  
27 into proposal discussions.

28

29 MR. WALLERI: Thank you. Actually, I don't  
30 have anything more. The remainder of my comments were  
31 going to be made with regards to the proposals. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Okay, a two  
34 minute break for everyone to use the bathroom and grab a  
35 cup of coffee, water, and then we'll go into proposals.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, where are we?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: 28, 31 and 32, and then we'd  
44 go back into the other proposals since everything is fresh  
45 in our mind. The last thing that I need to do -- or  
46 suggest on this, and I think it would be after the  
47 proposals is an idea of what the Council wants to do with  
48 this draft plan since, I believe it's going to be presented  
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board in May, so the Board's  
50 going to want to know where you guys stand on the plan.

00038

1 But that should be probably done after we deal with the  
2 proposals.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I would tend to ask  
5 that we deal with it sometime today. So the first proposal  
6 is Proposal 28, and what Page?

7 MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, Pete can fill it  
8 in and then we can get the order.

9

10 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, before Staff gets  
11 rolling here, I suggest you check in with Micki and see if  
12 he's still on line.

13

14 MR. STICKMAN: I'm still here.

15

16 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, Micki. Mr. Chair, the  
17 analysis begins on Page 45 of your book under Tab C. And  
18 Proposal 28 and 31 were submitted on behalf of the Koyukuk  
19 River Basin Moose Co-Management Team by Mr. Walleri, their  
20 attorney. We analyzed 28 and 31 together because they deal  
21 with Unit 21(D) and 24, within the Koyukuk controlled use  
22 area. And, again, that analysis begins on Page 45.

23

24 The proponent requests that the Board close  
25 public lands to the taking of moose in Units 21(D) and 24  
26 in the Koyukuk controlled use area except for Federally-  
27 qualified subsistence users or holders of a Federal permit.  
28 The proponent also requests the Board to authorize the  
29 Refuge manager of the Koyukuk Refuge to issue no more than  
30 45 Federal permits for the affected area for the harvest of  
31 moose by persons other than Federally-qualified subsistence  
32 users in conjunction with the State general drawing or  
33 subsistence registration hunt. You know the co-management  
34 team as they were formally called the Koyukuk River Tribal  
35 Task Force on moose management.

36

37 Last year, the last regulatory year, the  
38 Council and the Board dealt with two proposals submitted by  
39 the Refuge manager of the Koyukuk Refuge, Proposals 47 and  
40 48, they were submitted with the intent to reduce overall  
41 cow harvest and the Council and the Refuge manager worked  
42 on a revision to that original proposal which was passed by  
43 the Board which did reduce cow harvest but did provide for  
44 cow harvest opportunity for local users. As I mentioned,  
45 the proponent did submit a special action to the Board in  
46 August of 2000. The proponent's request to the Board was  
47 to limit the overall harvest or the overall number of  
48 general hunt permits issued by the State. The Federal  
49 Subsistence Board denied the proponents request based on  
50 the concerns of the task force were already addressed

1 through the working group through the management plan,  
2 management objectives, and harvest guidelines for the  
3 Koyukuk River.

4  
5           Since I gave you a report a year ago, there  
6 is no new information to add as far as the population  
7 status of the moose other than for two areas, Dulbi River  
8 mouth. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in  
9 cooperation with the Refuge did survey the Dulbi River  
10 mouth trend count area and here we see continued declining  
11 trends as far as the number of yearling bulls. The latest,  
12 six yearling bulls per 100 cows. The total calves observed  
13 during the 2000 survey was 46 and, again that's a declining  
14 trend as well, neither of which are attributed, again, to  
15 hunter harvest, of course. Same thing in the Treat Island  
16 trend count area in Unit 24. The density, the overall  
17 density was declining within that trend count area,  
18 according to the latest surveys and also the number of  
19 bulls per 100 cows is down to 16 observed through the 2000  
20 survey and, again, this is not attributed to hunter  
21 harvest.

22  
23           As far as hunter harvest, further analysis  
24 also reveals that less than 10 percent of the moose  
25 harvested by local hunters occurred in the proposed closure  
26 area within this proposal during the 1998/99 regulatory  
27 years and the 1999/2000 survey periods conducted by the  
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. If we consider the  
29 effects of this proposal, Board action would close Federal  
30 public lands to all users except Federally-qualified  
31 subsistence users and holders of a Federal permit. The  
32 proposer requests a reduction from 258 to a total of 45  
33 drawing permits for Units 21(D) and 24 within the Koyukuk  
34 controlled use area. Requests for that action to regulate  
35 the State's permit system does lie beyond the authority of  
36 the Federal Subsistence Board.

37  
38           Current results from State harvest returns  
39 and surveys from joint State/Federal population surveys  
40 reflect there is no justification for additional  
41 restrictions placed on the moose hunting in this area.

42  
43           The Staff recommendation is to recommend  
44 that the Board continue its support for the ongoing  
45 planning process for moose in the Koyukuk River and a  
46 continued participation by the Council members and also  
47 Federal agencies. The preliminary conclusion is to oppose  
48 Proposals 28 and 31.

49  
50           Thank you.

00040

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, at this time  
4 you'd ask for agency comments. The State's present at the  
5 table.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we've got proposal  
8 review procedure, can we first put it on the floor for  
9 discussion?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a  
14 motion to either adopt or oppose. Because I've previously  
15 asked that all introductions of proposals be brought on the  
16 floor in a positive way but we have -- it would be positive  
17 to go with the Staff recommendations in opposing or  
18 rejection. The Chair will entertain to put Proposal 28 on  
19 the floor.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, at the Koyukuk  
22 River Advisory Committee level we always make a motion to  
23 adopt the proposal, whether we're opposed to it or not. I  
24 would personally prefer to use that, it keeps it clear in  
25 my mind. So I would make a motion to adopt this proposal,  
26 Proposal 28 and 31.

27

28 MR. DEACON: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's seconded by Henry  
31 Deacon. For my clarification, is 28 and 31 basically the  
32 same?

33

34 MR. DeMATTEO: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, the next step is  
37 agency comment, Terry Haynes.

38

39 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My  
40 name is Terry Haynes, I'm with the Department of Fish and  
41 Game in Fairbanks. Although Department Staff participation  
42 in this meeting may be a little sporadic, we are very  
43 concerned and very committed to these cooperative planning  
44 efforts as David James told the Joint Councils yesterday,  
45 so we do have staff here for these proposal deliberations.

46

47 I will summarize our comments that appear  
48 on Page 60 of your meeting booklet. And if the Council has  
49 questions, I'll defer those to Glenn Stout or Randy Rogers.  
50 But the Department does not support either of these



1 proposals. The Federal Subsistence Board is being asked to  
2 take action that would be inconsistent with the provisions  
3 of the Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan. The available  
4 evidence does not support the assertion that hunting or  
5 overharvest is the cause for the recent apparent decline in  
6 the Koyukuk controlled use area moose population. The poor  
7 representation of calves and yearlings in late fall trend  
8 count area surveys during the past three years helps to  
9 account for the population decline but is not a result of  
10 hunting as calves are rarely, if ever, part of the human  
11 harvest.

12  
13                 Conversely, wolf numbers are known to have  
14 increased, though, grizzly bear and black bears probably  
15 also have risen in numbers along with moose numbers during  
16 much of the past two decades suggesting that predation may  
17 be a primary source of moose mortality.

18  
19                 Moose harvest levels in the Koyukuk  
20 controlled use area are well within the guidelines of the  
21 sustainable yield and the estimated harvest during the past  
22 regulatory year is within the guidelines set forth in the  
23 management objectives developed by the working group.

24  
25                 And with that, we'll -- if you have  
26 questions, again, I'll just defer those to Glenn or Randy.  
27 Thank you.

28  
29                 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Glenn,  
30 Randy or Terry Haynes? Jack.

31  
32                 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Walleri stated that the  
33 Department's number was all wet on this 250 subsistence  
34 level and that was like an arbitrary level, as being from  
35 the Subsistence Division, do you feel that those numbers  
36 are adequate for the people who utilize this Koyukuk  
37 controlled use moose population?

38  
39                 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I think one of  
40 the problems in dealing with in determining what the need  
41 is that the State has developed amounts necessary for  
42 subsistence uses, numbers for big game species in some  
43 units and subunits, but we don't always break those down to  
44 the specific pieces within these larger units. Compounding  
45 that difficulty is the fact that the Federal Subsistence  
46 Board does not make any amount necessary determinations, or  
47 it has not yet. So whether or not that number is going to  
48 accurately reflect the demand, I'm not in a position to  
49 really tell you that right now. What we do have -- I don't  
50 have with me today but we do have good harvest data from

1 the surveys that the Subsistence Division has been  
2 conducting in many of the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon area  
3 communities, so we do have numbers about what's actually  
4 going on. And I'm sorry, I don't have those in front of  
5 me, but I know you're familiar with that information.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Well, what I was going at is  
8 that, Dave Andersen, who's done 10 village surveys in that  
9 area, including Galena, has stated in meetings that that  
10 number would be adequate to -- for subsistence, and that's  
11 where that number came from. So, again, being at all these  
12 different meetings, I've accumulated all this -- I got  
13 stacks of paper two feet deep on my shelf at home that's  
14 avalanching down with all this moose stuff and that's where  
15 these numbers came from. But I felt that that number was  
16 what was currently being used and that's also reflective  
17 that the people utilize that on a yearly basis and it was a  
18 required amount of moose that people utilized there. It  
19 was real -- fairly static numbers, whether it was harvested  
20 fall or winter, these were fairly static numbers.

21

22 So I have appreciated the work that the  
23 Subsistence Division has done in these moose surveys in the  
24 Koyukuk River.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, when you said, static,  
27 what do you mean by that?

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Meaning that those numbers  
30 are from year to year, that's what the people need, that's  
31 what they go out and get. They don't try to kill a lot  
32 more or a lot less.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack, for that  
35 clarification -- for everyone's clarification. We do have  
36 door to door surveys on the Koyukuk and Middle Yukon. We  
37 survey our people and we get all the numbers down and like  
38 Jack said, these numbers are locked in throughout the  
39 years.

40

41 What's our next step, Vince?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: The next step would be to  
44 open the floor, but before that I'll just quickly say  
45 there's no written comments. This would be the time where  
46 you could have public comments from the public.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Mike, did you have any  
49 further comments or Lori.

50

1 MR. WALLERI: Thank you, Mike Walleri,  
2 again. The proposals are basically very simple. If you  
3 take a look at Page 44 in your handbooks you'll see that  
4 the calculation of 45 permits is what the current area  
5 biologist estimates to be necessary to reach a five percent  
6 level of harvest in the Koyukuk controlled use area which  
7 has been the historical position of the Koyukuk River Team  
8 that they would like to see a five percent harvest level.

9  
10 The reason for that is because the current  
11 level of 258 permits is a 7.5 percent harvest level within  
12 the Koyukuk controlled use area. What we're saying is that  
13 we would prefer to have a five percent harvest level as  
14 opposed to a 7.5 percent harvest level. The reason for  
15 that is because historically that has been the level, this  
16 7.5 harvest level is consistent with the historical harvest  
17 levels which have resulted in declines. Now, I understand  
18 the State's position that the decline is not attributable  
19 to human harvest. And we agree with that, we've always  
20 agreed with that. But the point is, is that, this is the  
21 only -- you can't regulate the wolves unless you shoot them  
22 and you can't shoot them, so what we're talking about here  
23 is using the only level -- the only regulation we have  
24 which is to regulate the human harvest and to drop it from  
25 7.5 percent to five percent.

26  
27 In terms of one of the earlier comments  
28 from Mr. Reakoff, my earlier testimony was that the 250  
29 moose for subsistence harvest, that allocation, we agree  
30 with.

31  
32 MR. REAKOFF: Oh, you do agree with that.

33  
34 MR. WALLERI: We've always agreed with it.  
35 In fact, the 250 moose subsistence harvest level, 200, as  
36 you know, is allocated to the regular season and 50 of that  
37 is allocated to the winter season. And we have always  
38 agreed with that, we have never disagreed with that.

39  
40 Secondly, the other points that we are  
41 concerned with that is that as Mr. Stout indicated in his  
42 testimony, his original recommendation to the working group  
43 was that there is a need for the reduction in the harvest  
44 level; that was his original recommendation. And what he's  
45 saying is that they will use in-season -- regardless of how  
46 many permits are being authorized, that they will use in-  
47 season management to remain below the sustained yield  
48 level. What we have not heard, however, is what is the  
49 calculation for that sustained yield level? In other  
50 words, when will the State implement the emergency order,

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1 and that -- there's nothing before this Board as to what  
2 that -- how many dead moose from the general hunt will be  
3 used to trigger the issuance of an executive order.

4

5 So in terms of -- just to conclude, what  
6 we're asking for, and this is a very simple request, all  
7 we're asking for is that a five percent harvest level be  
8 used in the controlled use area. If you favor a five  
9 percent harvest level, basically you would support the  
10 proposal. If you favor a 7.5 percent harvest level you  
11 would reject it. It's that simple.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Mike. Any  
14 further public comments? Chairman, Koyukuk River Basin.  
15 Please state your name for the record, please?

16

17 MS. LOLNITZ: My name is Loretta Lolnitz,  
18 I'm from Koyukuk. I'd like to thank the Western Interior  
19 Regional Council for taking up the issue for us. It's been  
20 a long process. I wanted to Mike Walleri to speak on the  
21 technical aspect of the whole issue. My testimony right  
22 now is to speak at the local hunter level for taking moose  
23 on the Lower Koyukuk River or in the controlled use area.

24

25 I'm born in raised in Koyukuk. Lived and  
26 traveled the Koyukuk River pretty much for the amount of  
27 years that I've been on this earth. Living in the city I  
28 use meat today, moose meat, by preference.

29

30 In the early '90s, we were starting to get  
31 a large number of local hunters on the Lower Koyukuk River  
32 and at the tribal level, we felt that we were not getting  
33 information back to us through the Advisory Councils, the  
34 State Advisory Councils and the Regional Councils at the  
35 tribal level, so the villages, the tribes formed their own  
36 group at the tribal level to try to get the attention of  
37 the State and the Federal agencies with our concern over  
38 the massive take of moose and all the issues that goes with  
39 it, like wanton waste, trash on the river, things like  
40 that, gas spilled, environmental stuff.

41

42 Throughout those early '90s we started  
43 hearing a lot of the agencies not participating fully and  
44 not having funds to help us get our concerns thoroughly  
45 across to the State and Federal agencies. Well, guess  
46 what, low and behold here comes the State working group  
47 with a plan to control moose take on the Koyukuk River with  
48 thousands of dollars. And before that group was formed,  
49 people who have sat on the Middle Yukon Advisory Board, the  
50 Koyukuk River Advisory Board, late Kelly Sam (ph), for

1 instance, for 20 years kept asking the State agencies for  
2 funding to show what's really going on for patrols to  
3 monitor the illegal guide hunting. All this came down to  
4 the amount of moose meat in the Lower Koyukuk River and we  
5 never could get that funds. But the State created this  
6 State working group based on -- or their forum, were to use  
7 guide hunters from Kenai, that area of the Anchorage Bowl,  
8 and our moose were still going, you know, still going, they  
9 still are today.

10

11 I don't see a five year plan between this  
12 group. I'm not actually tired of fighting, I'm just --  
13 we're just running out of moose, that's the whole point.  
14 And I truly support the technical comments that Mike put  
15 before you. If you didn't get my picture then I hope you  
16 get more educated on this.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Loretta. The  
21 next public testimony will be coming from Virgil  
22 Umpenhouer.

23

24 MR. UMPENHOUE: My name is Virgil  
25 Umpenhouer. I live in North Pole. I'm the guide that  
26 operates in the majority of the controlled use area. I  
27 oppose these proposals. What this would do, one thing this  
28 would do that hasn't been brought up by anyone, but this  
29 would make it so that the residents of Ruby, Nulato and  
30 Kaltag would not qualify to hunt in Unit 24 on Federal  
31 lands. Another thing it would do is it would devastate the  
32 economy, because the guides that actually physically work  
33 in this area live in Hughes, Huslia, Koyukuk, Nulato and  
34 Kaltag. And I want to address what happens to the meat  
35 from a guided hunter, there's not that many guided hunters,  
36 there were only nine of them inside the controlled use area  
37 last year from our operation, but what we do is with a  
38 guided hunter, they're all non-residents, we only -- if  
39 they want meat, we allow them to have one hind leg and the  
40 meat from along the back bone, the rest of the meat goes to  
41 villages, and we take extremely good care of the meat. And  
42 the priority of people that get the meat are the elders and  
43 the single mothers and the disabled people. That if you go  
44 to any of those villages, all the way from Hughes down to  
45 Kaltag, you'll find people that get the meat from the  
46 guided hunters.

47

48 Forty-five permits, if this proposal were  
49 passed, which I don't see how it could be, but 45 permits  
50 would -- as far as the moose population goes, it does not

1 make a dent in the mortality, the total mortality of the  
2 moose because as everyone here knows, that's caused by  
3 predation. But this public process, I've been involved in  
4 public processes with fish and game resources for a number  
5 of years and I think that the public process that went into  
6 making this Koyukuk River Moose Management plan was a very  
7 good process. I was not one of the members of it, however,  
8 I attended all the meetings that did not conflict with a  
9 Board of Fisheries meeting, but I do not support these  
10 proposals.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Anymore  
15 public testimony? Do we have anything written?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, we have no  
18 written comments on these proposals.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the next thing would be  
21 to vote on this?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, open discussion among  
24 Council and then obviously vote on the motion. We do have  
25 a motion on the floor. Jack.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: It's my opinion, as a Council  
28 member, that this proposal has more ill-effects to  
29 subsistence users that utilize these moose resources from  
30 the villages below Unit 24 that aren't included in the C&T.  
31 And there's a flaw in the logic of this proposal and  
32 that's saving the old moose to make up for the losses.  
33 Those moose only -- you know, they don't live indefinitely.  
34 The old moose that are being harvested, the older bulls  
35 primarily, those moose are going to die. The moose  
36 population is maintained through recruitment of young  
37 animals and that's just not happening. So the saving of  
38 the old moose, they're going to die one way or another.  
39 They're going to die from old age or hunters will take them  
40 or whatever. So that's somewhat of a flaw in reducing the  
41 harvest levels.

42

43 I do feel that this 258 permits is too high  
44 and I do feel that until a large bull and cow ratio start  
45 to show through trend, that they're getting up there around  
46 over 20 percent, that there is a need for reduction in the  
47 numbers of permits. Mr. Walleri says that a vote against  
48 this is against for a five percent reduction, you're either  
49 for the moose or against the moose, well, I'm for the  
50 moose. I don't get paid to come here. I have worked on

1 this process for years and another chronological chink or  
2 piece of this puzzle is our past Chairman, Harold  
3 Huntington, submitted a proposal to close the Federal lands  
4 within a half a mile or a mile of the Koyukuk River, that's  
5 what augmented -- that's what started this planning process  
6 with the State. This Council started the planing process  
7 with the State.

8

9 Can people pound -- but our past Chairman,  
10 Harold Huntington, submitted a proposal and this Council  
11 passed that proposal. It was rescinded through the Federal  
12 Board after deliberations, you know, they reconsidered and  
13 they had a reconsideration, but that's what started this  
14 planning process and that's what got the State to the table  
15 on this whole issue, was the local people through testimony  
16 saying that the moose were going down, this Council adhered  
17 to their advice, passed the proposal that started the State  
18 into this planning process.

19

20 I agree with this planning process, I do  
21 not agree with this level of harvest. But I feel, at  
22 least, that these Proposals 28 and 31 have more detriment  
23 to the subsistence users than they do in benefit to the  
24 moose population, because we're trying to -- because this  
25 proposal tries to save older moose that are going to die.  
26 This proposal doesn't address a recruitment problem so I'm  
27 opposed to these proposals, 01-28 and 01-31.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Ray.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: At this point, I concur with  
34 Jack. I would have to vote against this proposal. I think  
35 it's very important that where we're at in this planning  
36 process, that as has been asked, we continue it for another  
37 year. I do have concerns about the number of permits that  
38 are issued but with that fail safe that they're going to do  
39 an emergency closure if it approaches the harvestable  
40 limit, I think we have to give it an opportunity to work  
41 because if we shut down the process at this point, we're  
42 going to have more problems in other areas of the state, so  
43 I think we got to try to make that planning group process  
44 work. And then next year we can take a very close look to  
45 see what the effect of this is, to see if it is working and  
46 then think about further reduction.

47

48 But I'll vote against it at this point.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Any further

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1 discussion?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: You may want to check and see  
4 if Micki is still on line.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: I keep forgetting about  
7 Micki because I can't see him. Micki Stickman, do you have  
8 any comments at this time?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, he mentioned  
11 earlier if he's not on line, the village is preparing for a  
12 funeral so he may be involved with that but he told me  
13 that.....

14

15 MR. STICKMAN: I'm here.

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki.

17

18 MR. STICKMAN: I just wanted to voice my  
19 opinion to you guys, I would probably more than likely be  
20 against the proposals, too, because anything that's  
21 detrimental to the subsistence users in Nulato I'm against.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. Any  
24 further comments or discussion from the Council?

25

26 MR. STICKMAN: Well, the one thing for sure  
27 is, you know, Ron, that we did agree to go with the plan  
28 for another year because it was working and since I was on  
29 the working group and I did vote for the plan, I would have  
30 to vote against any proposals that would be against our  
31 plan.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micki. At this  
34 time, I, too, will vote against the proposals as they are  
35 presented and my reasons being, that I feel that the moose  
36 are in abundance down there and I'm going to use the  
37 numbers presented to us. It takes the average hunter in  
38 the Lower Koyukuk, in Unit 21(D) two to three days to get  
39 their winter moose. It takes us, up on the Upper Koyukuk,  
40 up to 14 days and beyond and that's why we have subsistence  
41 regulations in effect up in our area. We have a door to  
42 door survey and those numbers that were presented and will  
43 be presented year after year, don't vary very much, that's  
44 one of the basis of my decision.

45

46 I feel that with the winter hunt, five day  
47 early season hunt within Unit 21(D) should take care of our  
48 subsistence users. And at this time I intend to vote  
49 against Proposals 28 and 31.

50



1 Any further discussion Council? Any  
2 further discussion? Comments.

3  
4 At this time the Chair will call for the  
5 question. All those in favor of the motion -- okay, just  
6 to clarify this again, we are -- if you vote -- how do we  
7 do this again? Go ahead.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the motion on  
10 the floor is to adopt Proposals 28 and 31 as written. A  
11 vote in favor of that would put these forward to the Board  
12 to put them into effect or go into effect. A vote against  
13 them would send the Board the message that those actions  
14 would not be desired by this Council.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Is this  
17 clear to all our Council members? That's why I don't like  
18 this system -- Jack, you had something?

19  
20 MR. REAKOFF: No.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. All those in favor of  
23 the motion to support Proposals 28 and 31 signify by saying  
24 aye.

25  
26 (No aye votes)

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

29  
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31  
32 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: We rejected this proposal,  
35 the record should reflect.

36  
37 MR. MATHEWS: And we also captured that  
38 Micki voted in opposition on the transcript, thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that was heard clearly,  
41 right?

42  
43 REPORTER: Yes.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next proposal.

46  
47 MR. MATHEWS: The next proposal would be  
48 Proposal 32 and Pete has the page and all that and you did  
49 desire to have a motion to begin.

00050

1 MR. COLLINS: I move to support Proposal

2 32.

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved by Ray and  
7 seconded by Jack to support. Again, I don't like this  
8 process.....

9

10 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: .....to get it on the floor.  
13 Proposal 32, Pete DeMatteo.

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
16 Proposal 32, again, is submitted on behalf of the Koyukuk  
17 River Basin Moose Co-Management Team by Mr. Walleri. The  
18 proponent requests that the Board close Federal public  
19 lands in Unit 24 outside of the Koyukuk controlled use area  
20 to the taking of moose except for Federally-qualified  
21 subsistence users.

22

23 Like the two proposals we dealt with prior  
24 to this one, the proposed Board action would close Federal  
25 public lands in Unit 24, outside the Koyukuk controlled use  
26 area. In other words, the remaining Federal public lands  
27 north of the Koyukuk controlled use area. The areas that  
28 would be affected are on Page 96, the proposed Federal  
29 regulations, essentially those areas outside of the Koyukuk  
30 controlled use area, which are National Park, Refuge and  
31 BLM lands. What it essentially would do is public lands  
32 would be closed to the taking of moose except by qualified  
33 rural Alaska residents.

34

35 And I don't think you want to hear me read  
36 the whole page, but.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page are you on Pete?

39

40 MR. DeMATTEO: That's Page 96, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you have anything else?

43

44 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, I do. Briefly, the  
45 harvest analysis for that area presented by the Department  
46 of Fish and Game through community surveys results indicate  
47 that analysis of the harvest locations for the 1998/1999  
48 and 1999/2000 shows that most of the hunting by the local  
49 moose hunters occurs in near community areas located  
50 outside of those proposed for closure by this proposal.

1 The effects of the proposal, proposed Board action, would  
2 close Federal public lands in 24 outside of the Koyukuk  
3 controlled use area to all users except for Federally-  
4 qualified subsistence users. The adoption of the proposed  
5 Board action would oppose current harvest guidelines  
6 established through the management plan.

7

8 The current results from harvest and  
9 population surveys reflect that there is no justification  
10 for additional restrictions at this time. The Federal  
11 Subsistence Board should continue its support for the  
12 ongoing planning process for moose in the Koyukuk River and  
13 the continued participation by this Council and the Federal  
14 agencies. The preliminary conclusion is to oppose the  
15 proposal.

16

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Department.

19

20 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
21 Department does not support this proposal. Adoption of the  
22 proposal would unnecessarily prohibit moose hunting on  
23 Federal public lands in Unit 24 by non-Federally qualified  
24 subsistence users. I might add that our written comments  
25 are on Page 100.

26

27 Closing large tracts of Federal public  
28 lands as is requested in this proposal, and as was  
29 requested in Proposals 28 and 31 will simply displace non-  
30 local hunters and intensify moose hunting efforts in other  
31 areas. No evidence has been presented to demonstrate that  
32 the current regulations in Unit 24 are having a negative  
33 impact on the moose population or restricting moose hunting  
34 opportunities for local rural residents. Adoption of this  
35 proposal would undermine the Koyukuk River Moose Management  
36 plan and might discourage similar cooperative planning  
37 efforts in the future.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Terry. Vince.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we did  
44 have one written public comment and Staff does have copies  
45 of the full letter if you desire to see it and on other  
46 comments that may be submitted. This one is from Henry D.  
47 Tiffany, IV, he's a professional guide of Ester. He writes  
48 in opposition of Proposal 32 because it would restrict  
49 hunting on public land to one user group. He has concern  
50 about if this proposal was passed about displacement of

1 hunting pressure to other areas. He has seen little  
2 hunting up the Alatna River by the villages represented by  
3 the co-management team. And he's also concerned about the  
4 negative economic effect of this proposal on the local  
5 economy. And again, we do have copies of public comments  
6 if you desire to see them.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pardon me, but who was this  
9 from, I was kind of busy?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I pronounce  
12 it right it's Henry D. Tiffany, IV, he's a professional  
13 guide out of Ester, Alaska. There's a summary of his  
14 comments on Page 100. But I added more to it because that  
15 didn't capture all his concerns.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next step.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: The next step would be  
20 Regional Council deliberation and discussion about the  
21 proposal.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, I still have some  
24 questions on this. I think I'm being inundated with  
25 everything.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I forgot to  
28 advise you because there is the time for open public  
29 comments and by accident I overstepped that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's what I thought we  
32 were going into. Public testimony. Any requests? Virgil  
33 Umpenhouer.

34

35 MR. UMPENHOUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
36 if you'd turn to Page 96 of your book and look at the very  
37 bottom. It says remainder of Unit 24, one antlered bull  
38 and you can look at the new language. It says public lands  
39 are closed to taking of moose except by qualified rural  
40 residents of Unit 24, Anaktuvuk Pass, Koyukuk and Galena,  
41 that means that anyone else would not be able to hunt  
42 there, which would also be -- would mean that the people in  
43 Ruby, Nulato and Kaltag could not hunt there as well who,  
44 some of those people I know have traditionally hunted in  
45 Unit 24.

46

47 So there's no reason for this proposal to  
48 be there. The number of people that hunt in this area,  
49 like the Staff said are mostly local people. There's not  
50 many people from outside the local area that actually hunt

1 in the area below Hughes because that's where I  
2 traditionally -- our guiding operation traditionally hunts.  
3 And as I said before, the majority of the meat from those  
4 moose goes to people that otherwise would have to get  
5 someone to go get them a moose by proxy.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Virgil. Any  
10 further public comment? Mike -- Mike Walleri for the  
11 record.

12

13 MR. WALLERI: Thank you. The intent of the  
14 proposal is to do a couple of things. One, is to expand --  
15 at the current time, non-subsistence hunting is prohibited  
16 within portions of the Kanuti Refuge. What this would do  
17 would be to expand primarily on the strip on the eastern  
18 border of the Kanuti and on the southern border of the  
19 Kanuti Refuge which is currently open to non-subsistence  
20 hunting and would close basically the entire Kanuti.  
21 That's the one thing it does.

22 The other thing it does is primarily close  
23 hunting within Unit 24 and primarily, I think that has a  
24 major -- on other Federal lands, the other major areas the  
25 Alatna River as I understand. And contrary to the  
26 representations in the written comments, we understand a  
27 number of people from Alatna actually hunt -- or  
28 Alatna/Allakaket in the area hunt in the Alatna area --  
29 Alatna River area.

30

31 In terms of the comments that were made by  
32 Mr. Umpenhouer, he was basically quoting in terms of access  
33 -- the C&T use determination that currently exists, in  
34 other words, people from Nulato do not have a -- do not  
35 currently have a C&T use determination so it really does  
36 not affect anybody from Nulato -- it doesn't change the  
37 existing situation in terms of restricting people, who,  
38 subsistence users who could currently hunt in the area as  
39 subsistence users. It does -- so that's basically the  
40 intent of the proposal. Again, the primary focus here is  
41 on the eastern and southern portions of the Kanuti which  
42 are currently open and we understood that there's an  
43 increase in hunting activity in those areas and in recent  
44 years, we're attempting to address that.

45

46 As the Chairman pointed out, the data here is  
47 pretty straight forward that the level of effort currently  
48 required by people in the Allakaket, Alatna and Evansville  
49 areas is about three to four times the level of effort  
50 needed to meet subsistence harvest in the lower part of 21

1 and hopefully this is designed to provide some relief for  
2 them.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further public  
5 testimony. Lisa Saperstein, Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

6

7 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
8 Council members. I probably should have spoken earlier  
9 when the agencies were doing their thing but I'm not  
10 familiar with the process. As Mike mentioned, currently  
11 much of the Kanuti Refuge is closed to non-subsistence  
12 hunters and the closed area is also open to subsistence  
13 hunters from Galena, Anaktuvuk Pass and I believe there's  
14 one other area, so it is open to people who do not reside  
15 right within that area. We do not have a history of trend  
16 surveys in this area. Trend surveys were conducted in the  
17 Kanuti Canyon area and the Henshaw PV Creek area between  
18 1983 and 1992 and were discontinued. The surveys were not  
19 done in a consistent fashion until about 1987 to 1992.  
20 This year we reinitiated surveys in that area and what we  
21 found is that there really was nothing alarming as far as  
22 any kind of decline between the earlier data and this  
23 year's data. What we found was that in Kanuti Canyon,  
24 there was actually 1.01 moose per square mile within the  
25 trend area and that .92 moose per square mile were adults,  
26 the rest were calves. The bull per cow ratio there was  
27 38.3, in Henshaw Creek it was 129 bulls per 100 cows.

28

29 Now, one thing about the trend surveys is  
30 that you really need several years, three to four before  
31 you can make any strong conclusions and there was a big gap  
32 between the 1992 surveys and the current surveys. So I  
33 don't want to use one year of trend data recently as being  
34 hard and fast but there's nothing here to really indicate a  
35 problem. And these trend surveys were specifically picked  
36 in areas that local people use to hunt. The areas that  
37 would be closed are further up the rivers, particularly up  
38 the Kanuti River, they are accessible by the Dalton Highway  
39 Corridor, relatively few people do go down them and we do  
40 have information, I believe, Greg or Barry will present  
41 later, about what we know of the hunting pressure. We have  
42 not seen any decline of declines -- I mean increase as far  
43 as we're aware of, but we are also watching the area  
44 carefully to see if people displaced from other areas of  
45 the Koyukuk River do go there.

46

47 So right now the area is closed to non-  
48 local hunters in the areas of traditional use by Allakaket  
49 and Alatna.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Barry Whitehill.

2

3 MR. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chair, my name is Barry  
4 Whitehill, I'm the Deputy at Kanuti National Wildlife  
5 Refuge. I've been there eight years and have conducted law  
6 enforcement patrols in the area. There's basically like,  
7 as Lisa has indicated, there's three drainages -- major  
8 drainages that come off the Dalton Corridor on the east and  
9 along the south side, one the Kanuti Fish Creek drainage  
10 and the Southfork of the Koyukuk, of those three, what I've  
11 seen you know, I don't have hard numbers but just a  
12 professional sense, the Southfork of the Koyukuk has had  
13 various pulses, I guess, of mainly air boat activity. And  
14 I don't think what I see, anyway, I haven't seen it affect  
15 the population per se but it becomes troublesome with land  
16 ownership issues and people butting heads that way with  
17 subsistence users and their lack of knowledge of where  
18 lands are. And that's the troublesome area, it's not  
19 necessarily from a biological standpoint.

20

21 Down in the Kanuti system, it's a remote  
22 area. This year I was aware of one party of four hunters  
23 that came into that area, they did harvest four moose but  
24 it was well upstream from the closed use area. And just  
25 talking with them and having checked them in the field, you  
26 know, it seemed like there were several moose for them to  
27 choose from in that area. And that's what I see, just a  
28 sporadic use in that area. Fish Creek, you know, it's -- I  
29 know there is usage from the Dalton Corridor but I don't  
30 think it's really increased in that area either. So  
31 biologically, I haven't seen the signs of a big impact from  
32 the hunters as yet, but there is a troublesome area along  
33 the Southfork especially with the air boat activity that's  
34 taking place up there, from my standpoint.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: This trouble point, where is  
37 it and where are they debarking from?

38

39 MR. WHITEHILL: It depends on the water  
40 level. On higher water years, they'll come down the Jim  
41 River, but they bring the air boats down from Southfork.  
42 It's been historically a group, from my standpoint, from  
43 Palmer, Wasilla area and basically they have been the core  
44 of activity for the last -- they've indicated to me they've  
45 been in there the last 10 or 11 years. And as their  
46 stories radiate out and they invite different people over  
47 the years to hunt and those people branch off with their  
48 own hunting groups, that's kind of where that group of  
49 activity has grown. But I know, you know, different  
50 hunters have tried those areas, kind of pioneered out and

1 checked from the Dalton Corridor and our concern as  
2 displacement from down river, I know there has been groups  
3 that have kind of pioneered, looking in those areas. So  
4 we're just trying to keep our -- I'm basically there as  
5 trying to inform these people and some of them are very  
6 well versed on where the high water mark and their rights  
7 within navigability issues as well as trying to inform them  
8 when they are on private allotments and corporation lands  
9 and the issues there, because my hands are tied. From a  
10 law enforcement aspect, I don't have the jurisdiction to do  
11 citations but I really feel strongly about trying to be out  
12 there and pass on that information to them. And I provide  
13 maps and we have signed that area, when they hit the  
14 controlled use area and working with the people of  
15 Allakaket and Evansville and trying to do everything  
16 possible to get that information out.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since you are working on the  
19 Kanuti Wildlife Refuge and the Kanuti controlled use area,  
20 where do you stand on this proposal, just for my  
21 information?

22  
23 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, personally I wouldn't  
24 support the proposal. I think the controlled use area  
25 that's in effect right now and what I see people -- you  
26 know, I have not seen violations of that in my career  
27 there. And so I think it's an adequate area that -- and  
28 what subsistence activity I see, I feel it provides an  
29 adequate area for the harvest of animals for the village  
30 areas.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Since this area is a  
33 recognized controlled use area and with the recent actions  
34 just outside of Nenana banning air boats, is there any way  
35 that we can ban air boats up in this controlled use area?

36  
37 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, the issue becomes  
38 navigability, you know, below the high water mark, you  
39 know, that's State jurisdiction and, you know, as it stands  
40 right now things are evolving in the court system and that  
41 may change down the road but from my standpoint that would  
42 have to be somewhat of a State change there.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't there any action  
45 taken to define air boats as aircraft or was that cut off?

46  
47 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, from Refuge  
48 definition on Refuge lands and where I do have  
49 jurisdiction, if these air boats do bump off waterways, the  
50 main water course, and that includes onto slough areas that



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1 are on Refuge lands, they're considered to be off-road  
2 vehicles and so I do have the authority to cite them,  
3 they're not supposed to be in those areas.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, will you turn that  
6 mike on and off when you're done. Wasn't there specific  
7 action done by the Nenana area that did classify air boats  
8 as aircraft or did I miss a point on that newspaper  
9 article, and that was just about three or four days ago?

10

11 MR. WHITEHILL: I'm sorry, I haven't been  
12 apprised of that situation.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Barry. Any  
15 further questions or comments?

16

17 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

20

21 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Randy Rogers may  
22 be able to provide a response to your question about the  
23 air boats if you'd like him to.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, briefly. Because it  
26 seems like these air boaters associations are willing to  
27 spend quite a bit of money to take everything to court and  
28 that's why I thought there was a classification or some  
29 kind of action that they declared them aircraft.

30

31 MR. ROGERS: I can't give you all the  
32 details and I haven't seen the actual court decision, but  
33 the gist of it was that the Court upheld the Board of  
34 Game's authority to limit air boat use for hunting  
35 activities. So, in theory, in terms of the Board's  
36 authority for establishing controlled use areas, it's  
37 intact, maybe stronger than ever and they could -- you  
38 know, proposals could be given to the Board of Game to  
39 establish controlled use areas for air boats and other  
40 purposes. So that's the legal side of it.

41

42 The political side of it remains very  
43 touchy because there has been legislation proposed that  
44 would limit the Board's authority to do that. So I think  
45 the Board will be very cautious. But that decision does  
46 support their authority.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for the  
49 clarification. What's next there, Vince?

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if there's no  
2 other.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we do.

5  
6 MS. LOLNITZ: Thank you. My name is Loretta  
7 Lolnitz, I'm from Koyukuk. Thank you for recognizing me  
8 again, Ron. Irregardless of what the unit we're speaking  
9 on, if you're going to bring up a discussion on air boats  
10 I'd like to bring up a discussion on the testimony on what  
11 was said earlier on meat given away to elders, handicapped  
12 and single women. Well, for myself, in Koyukuk, I have a  
13 sister who is single, a have a mother who lives alone, I  
14 have a couple of handicapped uncles who never got meat from  
15 any legal guide hunter. I do know of one person who got  
16 meat from a -- quite possibly could have been an illegal  
17 transporter. I also know a lot of the meat goes to dumps  
18 in our area specifically. Now, I don't know about Unit 24  
19 and the Yukon bridge area, I do know that meat gets dumped  
20 around there. But for us, the Galena dump takes a lot of  
21 meat.

22  
23 So you know, irregardless, our moose  
24 population is going down, you know, one of these days I  
25 might have to eat beef everyday, you know, and catch that  
26 mad cow disease. You know, that's just the bottom line,  
27 moose meat is in decline.

28 Thanks.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Next item would  
31 be what, Council deliberations?

32  
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's it.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council member's concerns.  
36 Questions. Jack.

37  
38 MR. REAKOFF: My main concern is being from  
39 the Upper Koyukuk drainage, I would be representing people  
40 from Bettles and when hunters are displaced from closures  
41 on Federal lands they're pressed onto State lands. And the  
42 people around Bettles, they have all State land to the  
43 north of them and their moose population is being harvested  
44 fairly heavily right now and we, at the Koyukuk River  
45 Advisory level for the State, we plan on doing some things  
46 about that this next round. But just closing all the  
47 Federal lands down in Unit 24 and displacing those hunters  
48 onto those State lands would pressure those populations  
49 even further before and unwarranted.

1 Another aspect, that's why I request the  
2 Title VIII at every one of our meetings. As a Council  
3 member I've read this Title VIII backwards and forwards and  
4 I'm not a lawyer but I do read language fairly well and it  
5 says that there's a provision in Title VIII, Section 815,  
6 number 3, it says nothing in this title shall be construed  
7 as authorizing a restriction on the taking of fish and  
8 wildlife for non-subsistence uses on the public lands other  
9 than Parks or Monuments unless necessary for conservation  
10 of healthy populations of fish and wildlife. And I have to  
11 remain within the parameters of this law. This is the law  
12 that gives rural preference, this is also the law that has  
13 certain parameters and this is what the Board has to look  
14 at. And we've passed proposals, and this Council, before,  
15 that I didn't feel would meet this test and they failed at  
16 the Board level because they can't pass the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board without meeting this test. So I can't,  
18 without data here to show that -- you know, Kanuti saying  
19 they got one moose a square mile, without data to show that  
20 there's decline in the moose then we can't do anything  
21 about this.

22  
23 So these are some of my reservations about  
24 this proposal. Displacing hunters from Federal lands onto  
25 State lands to the north of Bettles would be detrimental to  
26 those people's usage and also the legality of this  
27 proposal. To these are my reservations about this  
28 proposal.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Further  
31 comments or questions from the Council. If not, we do have  
32 a motion on the floor to adopt Proposal 32. It was moved  
33 by Ray and seconded by Jack, any further questions,  
34 comments, deliberation? If not, the Chair will call for a  
35 question. Again, if you vote to support this you vote aye,  
36 again, I don't like this format. So the Chair will call  
37 the question, all those in favor of the motion signify by  
38 saying aye.

39  
40 (No aye votes)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

43  
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45  
46 MR. STICKMAN: Aye.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 32 is not  
49 supported. Right, is that good enough for your  
50 clarification? Is that clear?

00060

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next proposal.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we do have  
6 other proposals but we are into the lunch hour, it's up to  
7 you. We have three more proposals, 24, 29 and 30.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to give a lot of  
10 time to Proposal 29, Innoko Refuge controlled use area so  
11 I'd like that deferred until after lunch. Proposal 30 is  
12 along the same lines so I'd like to tie those together and  
13 34, I think it won't take much -- the lunch lines are too  
14 long at this time anyway, so let's go into 34, it shouldn't  
15 take too long.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you jointly  
18 took up 34 with Eastern Interior yesterday.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: So that one is taken care of  
21 then. We are done with proposals except for Huslia/Dakli  
22 River and Innoko Refuge area proposed controlled use area.  
23 I think that we need some time on this so let's take these  
24 two subjects after lunch. Let's go ahead and break for  
25 lunch right now. I think we got everything else taken care  
26 of so let's come back at 1:30; is that fine with everyone?

27

28 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to make  
29 a comment before you go.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Micki, again, I'm  
32 sorry because I'm used to looking at you in the face,  
33 sorry. Go ahead, Micki.

34

35 MR. STICKMAN: My comment will pertain to  
36 the moose management plan, the Koyukuk River Moose  
37 Management plan.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: What was that question  
40 again?

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: My comments will be -- when  
43 the Koyukuk River Moose Management plan comes up -- well,  
44 I'm going to be taking off pretty soon and I probably won't  
45 be coming back on line.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Micki, we'll  
48 take your comments and your deliberation right now on  
49 whether we go forward with the plan. Thank you.

50

1 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. If the Council moves  
2 to adopt the plan, I'd like to go on record as being in  
3 favor of the plan.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Micki.  
6 Anything else -- if you're taking off, is there anything  
7 else of concern that you have?

8  
9 MR. STICKMAN: No, nothing right now. I  
10 think Benedict will voice any concerns that I have  
11 adequately and at this time I'd like to thank the Council  
12 for letting me participate through teleconference.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: We wanted to make sure you  
15 were on line to establish a quorum, so again I appreciate  
16 your participation in this meeting. Thank you and take  
17 care of your business then, Micki.

18  
19 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I'll see you guys,  
20 hopefully I'll see some of you next week.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, at this time we'll  
23 call a lunch break and come back at 1:30 and spend some  
24 time on these last two proposals.

25  
26 (Off record)

27  
28 (On record)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to reconvene the  
31 Western Interior Council meeting. The next item on the  
32 agenda is Proposal 29. At this time the Chair will  
33 entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 29.

34  
35 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: So moved.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved by Angela, is there a  
38 second?

39  
40 MR. DEACON: Second.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry. Staff  
43 reports.

44  
45 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 29 was  
46 submitted by Henry Deacon of Grayling and this Council. He  
47 requested that the Board close the Innoko National Wildlife  
48 Refuge to the use of aircraft for hunting moose. The  
49 request, the original request would essentially have  
50 created an Innoko controlled use area to include all Federal

1 lands in Unit 21(A) and 21(E) within the Refuge.

2

3 The original proposal was amended on  
4 January 18th by Mr. Deacon. The amended proposal would  
5 expand the Paradise controlled use area to include BLM,  
6 State and private lands and that portion of the Refuge  
7 within 21(E) starting at the confluence of the outflow of  
8 Reindeer Lake and Paimiut Slough along the straight line  
9 heading northeast to the mouth of the Iditarod River, and  
10 there's a map that better illustrates it on the following  
11 page, which is Page 64 in the analysis. The vertical hatch  
12 marks is the existing Paradise controlled use area and the  
13 proponent would like to see that controlled use area  
14 expanded to the east and that's the diagonal hatch marked  
15 area that goes from the outflow of Reindeer Lake where it  
16 meets Paimiut Slough up to the mouth of the Iditarod.  
17 Grayling would also like to see that extended from the  
18 mouth of the Iditarod along a straight line northeast to  
19 Sixmile Lake and then heading off in a northwest direction  
20 straight line to the lower part of Eagle Island on the  
21 Yukon River.

22

23 Does that explain that, Mr. Chair?

24

25 MR. COLLINS: So it doesn't include the  
26 rest of 21(A) then on up there, it's just expansion to the  
27 east that we're talking about now, right?

28

29 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct, just the  
30 expansion to the east. The original proposal was the  
31 entire Innoko Refuge, the revised proposal is that area  
32 east of existing Paradise controlled use area and then the  
33 area going from the mouth of the Iditarod to Sixmile Lake  
34 and then northwest to the lower portion of Eagle Island on  
35 the Yukon River.

36

37 What precipitated this proposal was that  
38 residents of the GASH communities, Grayling, Anvik,  
39 Shageluk, Holy Cross have expressed concerns of increased  
40 hunting pressure from fly-in moose hunters within their  
41 area. This was also echoed through this Council last year.  
42 Local concerns of fly-in moose hunters favor additional  
43 access restrictions within this area for non-Federally  
44 qualified users within the Refuge, and through the revision  
45 of the proposal now from the areas I've described.

46

47 The proposed regulation change you see on  
48 Page 66, I won't read the entire thing because it's quite  
49 confusing and lengthy but essentially what we'd be adding  
50 to that language is along the straight line from the mouth

1 of the Iditarod River southwest to the confluence of the  
2 outflow of Reindeer Lake and Paimiut Slough, and then also  
3 Mr. Deacon would like to see it also go a straight line  
4 from the mouth of the Iditarod River to Sixmile Lake and  
5 then a straight line from Sixmile Lake to the lower end of  
6 Eagle Island.

7

8                   The regulatory history of the Paradise  
9 controlled use area was established in 1978 by the Alaska  
10 Board of Game in response to concerns that hunters success  
11 rates favored non-local users and that total harvest levels  
12 threatened the resource. The density estimates for moose  
13 populations within the proposal area do not reflect the  
14 need for additional regulatory restrictions. Looking at  
15 the survey information that was collected by the Department  
16 of Fish and Game, individual sample units within this area,  
17 not all of them, but some of them exceed 40 moose per  
18 square mile. I looked at the harvest information that was  
19 collected by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
20 Division of Subsistence and it reflects that within the  
21 GASH communities during the years of 1983 through 1999, for  
22 those four communities, the average hunter success rate is  
23 79 percent, which is relatively high.

24

25                   Looking at this information, and also  
26 listening to concerns expressed by Angela and by Henry and  
27 other people of that area who depend on this area for  
28 moose, when I write this analysis I have to adhere to  
29 certain guidelines and look at the biological information  
30 and the harvest information as well. Unfortunately, that  
31 information does not warrant additional restrictions at  
32 this time. But Staff is most open to listening to  
33 additional testimony by the Council that would support  
34 their concerns that are expressed in this analysis and also  
35 by the Council in prior years. And with that, the  
36 preliminary conclusion is to oppose the proposal, thank  
37 you.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. Agency.

40

41                   MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
42 Department of Fish and Game comments are on Page 71 of your  
43 meeting materials. Those comments were written before the  
44 proposal was amended or corrected, whatever the case might  
45 be. So our written comments don't accurately address the  
46 revised proposal, but be that as it may, we support the  
47 Staff recommendation to oppose the proposal for the reasons  
48 given in the justification provided by the Staff.

49

50                   Thank you.

00064

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Terry. What's  
2 next, public testimony?

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe  
5 Henry knows of some other people that are attending the TCC  
6 Board of Directors meeting that may want to testify on  
7 this. So maybe Henry could shed some light on that.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

10  
11 MR. DEACON: Orville is going to go get  
12 them now so it will take about one or two minutes.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Henry.

15  
16 (Pause)

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you or Angela have  
19 anything to add on this?

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in the interim  
22 I can cover the written public comment that was submitted.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Please do.

25  
26 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There is a letter I  
27 have here which is from Steve White of Willow Air Service.  
28 If you'd like to see a copy of that we can provide it.  
29 Basically they oppose the proposal, there's no data showing  
30 declining moose population in the Innoko Wildlife Refuge  
31 and recent studies show moose populations remain steady.  
32 There is also no decline in hunter success rate. The  
33 nearest community is Shageluk, which is 84 river miles or  
34 35 miles in a straight line down stream from the Innoko  
35 Refuge. This is too far away to affect the success rate of  
36 the hunters from Shageluk. In the last four years, Willow  
37 Air has reduced its number of hunters to keep from  
38 overhunting and to keep higher hunter success rates. We  
39 have strived to get all of the meat out of the field in a  
40 timely manner and not have any meat wasted. We give half  
41 of our moose meat away and we haul it out to locals in  
42 McGrath. In 1999 they were given a plaque for their  
43 activities, a positive plaque of their activities.

44  
45 Anyways, there's a full copy of the letter  
46 here. The Willow Air Service opposes the proposal.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

49  
50 MR. COLLINS: Question on that Vince. Were



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1 they commenting on the modified proposal or original, which  
2 closed all of 21, do you know?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Well, to my knowledge, I'm  
5 looking at Pete, it would be the original proposal. The  
6 date on the letter was January 8th, we received it in our  
7 office on January 10th.

8

9 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Mr. Deacon's  
10 original proposal was modified on January the 18th, so it  
11 would have been the original proposal.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: When was that letter dated?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: That was from the president  
16 of Willow Air Service, Mr. Steve White, so they were  
17 commenting on the original proposal for a more extensive  
18 controlled use area.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: I think the manager of Innoko  
21 is here and the question is, is Willow Air operating in the  
22 area of the modified proposal and I'm not sure how far down  
23 they land, if somebody could answer that? Yeah, I don't  
24 think they're in the area of the amended proposal.

25

26 MR. SHAFF: Mr. Chairman, my name is Bill  
27 Shaff. I'm the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge and to the  
28 best of my belief, Willow Air, very few of the air taxi  
29 services operate that far south.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Are you  
32 going to be here throughout today?

33

34 MR. SHAFF: Yes.

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that's all the  
38 public comment that was provided, you know, in writing. I  
39 don't know the status of the speakers from.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, I've got their requests  
42 here and I'm ready to recognize them.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: That's all we had for written  
45 comments.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, thank you. At  
48 this time we have two people signed up for public testimony  
49 and they are Phillip Demientieff of Holy Cross and Gabe  
50 Nicholi of Graying, this is on Proposal 29. At this time I

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1 would like to call both of them up to the front table with  
2 the mike and begin with Mr. Phillip Demientieff. Thank you  
3 for showing up and thank you for your concern.

4

5 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
6 Well, I'm here to -- you know, I live in Holy Cross and I  
7 also work with the four villages down there that's in Unit  
8 21(E) and, you know, every year we have moose hunt and we  
9 see float planes flying, we think that, you know, those  
10 hunters going out -- you know, guides, guiding, but I  
11 couldn't prove that for sure. But guiding and other --  
12 what I'm trying to say is that I'd like to see the moose  
13 population be there for the future. I'd like to see the  
14 moose population protected because I hear stories of people  
15 from my village and surrounding villages, you know, they go  
16 out canoeing in lakes and they see these bull moose with  
17 only the horns taken and the rest of the whole moose just  
18 laying there. I hear that from the village people. And  
19 I'd just like to see the moose population protected and one  
20 of these things would be that -- I'm kind of getting  
21 nervous, excuse me, I'm just saying that I would not like  
22 to see any sport hunting planes flying in our the area.

23

24 Another issue we have is wolves, you know,  
25 wolves are taking a toll on the moose population, too.  
26 That's another thing I'd like to mention.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Phillip thank you. Thank  
31 you for admitting your nervousness, but just feel free to  
32 be yourself, we've got a lot of respectful for you. We are  
33 all the same way up here. Is that the extent of your  
34 testimony?

35

36 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you're in full support of  
39 Proposal 29 then?

40

41 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, on what Henry's  
42 proposing.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Gabe.

45

46 MR. NICHOLI: Yeah, my name is Gabe  
47 Nicholi from Grayling. I hope I don't get nervous before I  
48 start speaking.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MR. NICHOLI: But I'm here to testify on  
2 behalf of Henry's proposal also. I do most of my hunting  
3 in the fall up Innoko River and it seems like it's getting  
4 harder and harder to get a moose and we're not trophy  
5 hunters. We get what we can get. I was out for four days  
6 last fall and all we seen was two and we were lucky enough  
7 to get one. And we see a lot of planes flying, you know,  
8 over the area all the time and we don't know where they're  
9 going or anything but they're always flying around the area  
10 and there's getting less and less moose. So I just wanted  
11 to -- I'm supporting Henry's proposal.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you both. I had a  
14 question -- both of you are in support of Proposal 29? Are  
15 you aware that it had been amended just to the east side  
16 instead of engulfing the whole Innoko Wildlife Refuge; are  
17 you aware that it has been amended?

18  
19 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Just prior to this I was  
20 aware it has, yeah.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Were you aware, too, Gabe?

23  
24 MR. NICHOLI: Yes.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Feel free  
27 to sit around we may ask you more questions so don't run  
28 too far and we may call you back or just raise your hand if  
29 you want recognition, okay.

30  
31 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, we'll just be right  
32 next door.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, either that or just  
35 stick around if you can. All right. At this time we have  
36 further request for public testimony and I'll call on Carl  
37 Jerue.

38  
39 MR. JERUE: Carl Jerue, the Chief of Anvik.  
40 And I've lived there for going on 39 years and we have the  
41 Paradise controlled unit there but prior to that we have  
42 witnessed numerous violations with aircraft. And the  
43 enforcement -- the resources for enforcement is not  
44 available then and it is not available today so anyone with  
45 an airplane can go out and do whatever they please. There  
46 are areas so remote that we have numerous lakes there that  
47 you can't access by water or land, just by air so we are  
48 supporting this proposal. And it has worked with our area  
49 in the Paradise area. I have been listening to complaints  
50 from the residents of Holy Cross, Grayling, Shageluk about

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1 their traditional hunting grounds they have used for years  
2 and years and they're having to compete with these folks  
3 that have an abundance of money and they charter airplanes,  
4 there's just no competition and it's getting worse and  
5 worse. I guess it all -- I can't -- I can't describe how  
6 angry I am about what's going on there and I'm here to  
7 support this proposal before our resources are gone, and  
8 then what would we do, we'd be in the same situation as  
9 McGrath, Unit 19.

10  
11 So if there's any questions.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will you hit that mike.  
14 Yeah, Carl, again, the same question, are you aware of the  
15 amendment to the proposal, the east side of this Paradise  
16 controlled use area?

17  
18 MR. JERUE: (Nods affirmatively)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, okay. Just for the  
21 public's information, these four boys that are testifying  
22 are quite busy at this time and I'd like to thank them for  
23 appearing and pulling out of their classes next door and  
24 thank them for dropping their class so they can testify. I  
25 just want to make it clear to them and to all of us that  
26 they are aware of the amendment to cut down from the  
27 original area, the whole Innoko are to the east side of  
28 Paradise. Did you have anything more, Carl?

29  
30 MR. JERUE: Yeah. See we have some cases  
31 that the residents are -- that the local people are cited  
32 for some minor violations, you know, like they don't leave  
33 a part on the rear quarter there, the hindquarter and they  
34 get cited for that and maybe for not having their license  
35 or their ticket, so we feel we are, you know, we're easy  
36 prey for the enforcement because we're there, we're not  
37 just in and out hunting. We set up camp and that's just  
38 our way of hunting. We don't have aircraft, we don't fly  
39 in and fly out in a half an hour so we're there. We get  
40 visited by enforcement officers quite often.

41  
42 I will be supporting any efforts like this  
43 today and in the future. I look forward to working with  
44 this Council here. Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. If you're  
47 done, we'll call Eugene Paul from Holy Cross. Again, I'd  
48 like to thank you boys for taking time out of your classes.  
49 If you really do have to go back to class, I can't hold you  
50 back, but you're welcome to stay and I'd like to thank you

1 for your testimony. Eugene.

2

3 MR. PAUL: Hello, I support Henry's  
4 proposal because it's very tough for -- like I live in Holy  
5 Cross, I'm the traditional chief and I've been on the  
6 council for about -- this is my fifth year now. It's tough  
7 because there's two big outfitting game people that are  
8 just right outside the Innoko, there's Pike Safari and  
9 there's this big boat that's just parked right on Reindeer  
10 Lake and they fly planes in and out from -- you know, when  
11 you're hunting you always see a float plane flying and it's  
12 pretty tough for like -- you know, we reported this to Fish  
13 and Game and the Fish and Game is just so -- they're so  
14 booked up that they wouldn't be even able to check them.  
15 But now this -- if the proposal goes through, now, that's  
16 going to be tough for us to hunt for our subsistence way of  
17 life because our fishing is already going to be very -- cut  
18 drastically this summer. Our subsistence, it's going to be  
19 tough. And then once this proposal, if you guys propose  
20 this aerial hunting thing, you know, that's going to be  
21 really tough for us to maintain our subsistence way of life  
22 for eating that moose meat. That's what we look forward  
23 to, that's part of our way of life of eating this moose  
24 meat, especially for the next generation coming up, like  
25 me, like my children and if we end up opening this thing up  
26 with aerial hunting, there's going to be lots of planes  
27 coming in and out because Aniak's just right there and it's  
28 really tough.

29

30 So I'd like it to be noted that I support  
31 Henry's proposal.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Eugene. Again,  
34 I'll clarify for the record that you do understand that  
35 we're deliberating on the amended one, the expansion of  
36 Paradise, right?

37 MR. PAUL: Yeah. That means that it's  
38 going to come down towards the Innoko, though, right,  
39 that's what you're -- it's coming further down towards  
40 Reindeer Lake?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's exactly right.  
43 There's a map there with the amendments.

44

45 MR. PAUL: Yeah, I see it right here. But  
46 stills that's -- I mean that's where we hunt, I mean we  
47 don't hunt on the Yukon, we don't, we hunt on the Innoko  
48 River to get our moose and that's towards -- you know,  
49 that's going to be towards our hunting grounds where we've  
50 been hunting for years and years. I mean my dad brought me

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1 out there to hunt and if you open that up that's going to  
2 hurt Holy Cross and Shageluk and it's just going to be  
3 tough to be hunting moose. You know, that's opening a big  
4 area for people to be flying around.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

7  
8 MR. COLLINS: The proposal is actually to  
9 close it -- to enlarge the closed area, it's not to open  
10 any area. It's to expand on the east side of the Innoko  
11 River, the closure from Reindeer Lake up to the mouth of  
12 the Iditarod. You mentioned that there were some air taxis  
13 or fly-ins who were using lakes on that side, are they in  
14 the area that will now be closed, can somebody answer that?

15  
16 MR. PAUL: Yeah. They're going to be right  
17 -- they're landing there even right up towards -- out from  
18 Reindeer Lake, alongside the Innoko, there's a couple of  
19 lakes before Shageluk, like there might be Layman's and  
20 then -- it's pretty close to Albert's Lake and those two  
21 lakes right there that are really major lakes that were --  
22 there was quite a bit of big float planes landing right  
23 there. I mean there's no -- I even called Fish and Game  
24 about it and they said they're so, you know, overwhelmed  
25 with work because that -- they take care of that Aniak  
26 region part and they'll check onto it but you'll still --  
27 the next day when you go out hunting you still see these  
28 planes flying, it's just -- they never go away, they just  
29 keep on coming. There's even some big beavers that, you  
30 know, we reported them but nothing has happened.

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anymore questions for  
35 Eugene? Henry, go ahead.

36  
37 MR. DEACON: The proposal here, I think  
38 it's a good proposal. I know I got a lot of comments on it  
39 from the villages. And the reason for this is for the  
40 subsistence users will be increased in three or four years  
41 in our area, in our villages, therefore, we need to secure  
42 around our villages for those kind of systems, due to  
43 increase of hunters, you know. My grandchildren, they need  
44 a place to hunt, too. And not only that, but increased  
45 moose or whatever that is around there, you got to have a  
46 safeguard for them and that's one of the reasons behind  
47 this proposal.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you Henry. Did  
50 we have any further public comments? Thank you, again,

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1 Eugene. I know you're busy right now but thanks for coming  
2 over. Any further public testimony? What's the next step,  
3 Vince? Okay, Pollack Simon. Yeah, for your information  
4 Pollack, we're dealing with Proposal 29, the Innoko area,  
5 thank you.

6

7 MR. SIMON: I'm the Chairman for the  
8 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and also SRC for Gates of  
9 the Arctic. I've been involved in fish and game for all of  
10 a better part of my life, and I'm kind of concerned about  
11 some areas. At the last teleconference meeting, Koyukuk  
12 River Advisory Committee, we were opposed to a winter  
13 hunting season around Evansville, Bettles because they have  
14 a road there that goes in and some non-local hunters get a  
15 lot of moose out there. So we support a closure for that  
16 area in the winter hunt.

17

18 I also sit on the Koyukuk River Drainage  
19 Fisheries Board and we had a meeting in Holy Cross. At the  
20 meeting it was decided by board members that large fires  
21 that burn have a harmful fallout for fish spawning areas.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pollack, could you make it  
24 brief because what we're deliberating on right now is  
25 Proposal 29, the Innoko area.

26

27 MR. SIMON: Okay.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: And if you want to testify  
30 about the area around Bettles, we have time this afternoon.  
31 We will be bringing back people and Jack will be here, too,  
32 so we're not dealing with the -- if you can come back,  
33 that's when I would rather have you testify, but if you  
34 can't come back later, then do it now.

35

36 MR. SIMON: Okay, sure.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again, I know  
39 you're busy over next door, too.

40 MR. SIMON: Uh-huh.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: The next step.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think  
45 there's some other agency comments by Staff Committee  
46 representatives.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: One thing that we skipped  
49 over is the numbers from this area, who's the Innoko  
50 Wildlife Refuge manager?

1 MR. MATHEWS: He's present here and he'll  
2 be up at the table shortly but I think Greg Bos is also the  
3 -- he's the representative of the wildlife component of  
4 Fish and Wildlife Service, Staff Committee.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Greg.

7  
8 MR. BOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is  
9 Greg Bos, the Fish and Wildlife Service representative on  
10 the Inter-Agency Staff Committee. I just wanted to bring a  
11 couple of things to your attention so you can consider them  
12 as you deliberate on this proposal.

13  
14 First, I think you all understand that the  
15 area included within this proposal as it's been revised, if  
16 you should recommend approval would only apply to the  
17 Federal lands, not the State or private lands, and a fair  
18 portion of the area is State or private lands, particularly  
19 adjacent to the villages of Holy Cross and Shageluk. To be  
20 most effective, you know, you would need to have a similar  
21 action taken by the State Board of Game if you wanted to  
22 have this controlled use area -- to take care of the  
23 concerns that some of the residents have raised for the  
24 areas adjacent to those villages.

25  
26 The second point that I wanted you to think  
27 about is that in most cases, when the Federal Subsistence  
28 Board adopts regulations, they apply only to Federal  
29 subsistence users and not to non-subsistence users, non-  
30 Federal. In this case I think the intent is pretty clear,  
31 that the proponent would like to restrict non-local people,  
32 non-Federally eligible hunters from flying into this area.  
33 And if that's the case, you know, the Board will need to  
34 consider some of the aspects that Jack Reakoff raised  
35 earlier about Section 815 and that is, only when it is  
36 found to be necessary for the conservation of the moose  
37 resource, in this case, or to protect subsistence uses, if  
38 subsistence uses are being adversely affected by non-  
39 Federal users coming into this area, would the Board adopt  
40 a restriction on non-Federal users, the information  
41 presented so far in the analysis, however, indicates that  
42 success rates by local hunters are very high and that the  
43 moose population is not -- or the health of the moose  
44 population is not being jeopardized at this time.

45  
46 It's apparent, though, that there are user  
47 conflict issues here, competition and concerns about the  
48 future of this moose population. There has been a project  
49 approved under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program to  
50 establish a working group for the GASH communities to



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1 address user conflict issues, both in relation to moose and  
2 to fish issues on the Innoko River, and that's an  
3 alternative way of addressing some of these concerns.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Greg. How long  
8 has the Paradise controlled use area been in effect?

9

10 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, since 1978.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: And I notice that it covers  
13 a lot of State grounds, right?

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct, if you look at the  
16 map on Page 64, you'll see a patchwork of land  
17 jurisdictions. The BLM being the darkest shaded area; Fish  
18 and Wildlife not so dark; and then the areas, I guess, that  
19 are represented in white would be State and private.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: I'm not sure who to address  
24 this question to, maybe Terry for the State. But I have  
25 heard from the residents of the area, and has been  
26 expressed here also that the Paradise controlled use area  
27 is actually being violated by people using lakes on the  
28 other side of the Innoko, very close to that area and then  
29 using boats and so on to access, so they're kind of  
30 violating the intent of it. Is that the case, have there  
31 been complaints on enforcement, like they see the planes  
32 flying and so on, but they're operating from that area?  
33 But it looks like it would be State or possibly some of the  
34 BLM land. The map is a little unclear. Can anybody pick  
35 out some of those lakes that they're talking about? I  
36 don't know, we don't have the resident from Holy Cross  
37 still here. I know Reindeer Lake, you can see that on the  
38 map. But has the State received comments on that or  
39 complaints on that and maybe, Bill, from Innoko, too, have  
40 you heard the same comments of people landing outside the  
41 area and then going in and accessing it?

42

43 MR. SHAFF: I have heard some comments  
44 about that. In our enforcement efforts, we don't cover the  
45 State lands, our jurisdiction stops at the south end of the  
46 Refuge boundary which would be about the top 20 percent of  
47 the controlled use area. We patrol that area pretty well,  
48 the area of the controlled use area that's on the Refuge.  
49 I can't say there was no violations, however, we do monitor  
50 it pretty closely when we're over there.

1 South of that area is closer to the  
2 villages and I can't really speak for those areas.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

5  
6 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Ray, I don't  
7 have information to respond to your question so I'm not  
8 sure if that has been an enforcement issue or not.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where do we stand on  
11 this now, Vince?

12  
13 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have a  
14 motion on the floor and it's just open discussion. Again,  
15 we've been discussing over here, you do need to look at the  
16 Federal land make up on this. I think it may be  
17 advantageous for Henry or others to explain what areas are  
18 important within the area that they've defined there using  
19 the Federal land overlap. Because, the proposal, if it was  
20 passed by the Board would only cover Bureau of Land  
21 Management lands and Fish and Wildlife Service lands.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. But even if we did  
24 that, you know, Paradise already covers a good bunch of  
25 State land. If we covered that area, those three dark  
26 areas around Shageluk, that might be all we need at this  
27 time or is that the way you read it?

28  
29 MR. MATHEWS: That's the way I read it but  
30 I'd caution you and we do have BLM representatives here, I  
31 don't know the status of those dark colored lands there on  
32 the map, if those are going to expand or contract or what's  
33 happening with the State settlement on Native claim  
34 settlements in those area so we would -- I don't know how  
35 firm those are so maybe somebody could tell us how firm  
36 those dark lands are that are represented by Bureau of Land  
37 Management. The Refuge boundaries, I believe, will not  
38 change at all so those are pretty strong unless Bill has  
39 additional data on that.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Bill.

42  
43 MR. SHAFF: Vince, the Refuge boundaries  
44 won't change but one thing I would like to note is that a  
45 lot of the allotment claims are in that southwest portion  
46 of the Refuge which is currently covered or potentially  
47 covered by the controlled use area, just so the Council  
48 will note that, please.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we go into Council

1 deliberations, right?

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I was  
4 just cautioning you because I have talked to Henry about  
5 this and I know that when we got this modification, he kind  
6 of indicated the area and I'm not familiar with the  
7 geography of the area but the area that was in the Refuge  
8 portion of the proposed area seemed to be the most  
9 important for the villages and I don't know if that's still  
10 the case. So maybe Henry would like to talk more about  
11 that. If not, then that's fine. I just remember him  
12 saying the area up there and the lighter grey area was the  
13 more critical spot.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Any  
16 Council deliberation. Comments. Henry.

17

18 MR. DEACON: I forgot what I was going to  
19 say. Anyways, it's important this proposal, as far as our  
20 area of concern -- gosh, I forgot what I was going to say.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 MR. DEACON: One of the things I kind of  
25 question is like Pete said, there's no reason for it and  
26 he's against it and according to him there's a lot of moose  
27 in that area. I know, I live in that area. I know there's  
28 less moose than a couple of years ago. There was way more.  
29 I was up there just a few days and there's no moose tracks,  
30 it's wolves are killing the moose off. I think the State  
31 and the Federal should -- they have a responsibility to  
32 check into these requests when it's -- you know, when  
33 people question those things. They're getting paid for  
34 that, to manage these things. You know, when we report it  
35 as a citizen, it should be honored, and so the population  
36 statement is questionable to me within the area, period.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments.

39 Discussion. Angela.

40

41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
42 Angela Demientieff, Holy Cross. On this Paradise  
43 controlled use area, my father was one of the people who  
44 wrote and made those boundaries. And before he died in  
45 1989, he said, you know, one thing we should have made  
46 those boundaries further out. We're happy with what we  
47 have but we should have really extended them further east.  
48 And I was really glad that Henry has brought a proposal for  
49 that. I know that there's just a little piece of BLM lands  
50 but once we get those covered, then we can always move on  
to the State to get the rest covered under a controlled use

1 area. And like all the other guys before me, we've seen so  
2 many planes flying in and flying out and they've dropped  
3 off hunters so they could go by boat. We've seen planes  
4 broke down on the river and the reason they were broke down  
5 was they were overloaded, those big beavers and they'd  
6 break down and they'd have all this meat on board and they  
7 couldn't take off, the load was too heavy and they'd have  
8 to wait for parts. We've seen people break their airplanes  
9 down trying to haul out moose. One was parked on the beach  
10 for two years because he had too big a load, he was from  
11 the Bethel area.

12  
13 Our people are trying to do their best  
14 living the way they want to live like they always have.  
15 And when we have all these outside pressures like on our  
16 game, I know Fish and Game always tells us, you guys got a  
17 lot of moose. We know there are moose. But if you fly  
18 from Holy Cross to Grayling, once you pass Paradise you  
19 don't see no more moose. I used to go to Grayling all the  
20 time by plane and Shag and Anvik and it used to be just a  
21 big joy to look out the window and whoever was on your left  
22 would count that side and if you're on the right side you  
23 could the moose, you know, you can't count moose no more  
24 because they're not there. They're moving. They're moving  
25 down towards Holy Cross because we got a lot of willows and  
26 stuff down there.

27  
28 And even though we do have the moose, we  
29 still would like to preserve those moose for our children  
30 and our grandchildren so that they'll be able to hunt. And  
31 I really support Henry in trying to close that to planes  
32 and outsiders coming in. Because like everybody else from  
33 Holy Cross and the other villages, we've ridden up the  
34 Innoko and seen all these moose laying around, just no  
35 heads on them or just rotting on the beach. You try to  
36 talk and report them, and they say, well, you guys are  
37 going to have to get the numbers on those airplanes and let  
38 us know or you're going to have to take pictures. They  
39 want video cameras out there and not everybody in the  
40 village has a video camera to go out there and record all  
41 these things. And it sounds like sometimes to some of the  
42 people, that even though they saw it with their eyes and  
43 they know it to be a fact and they know it's true, it seems  
44 like when Fish and Game comes in they just don't believe  
45 them. They just brush them off like they want more  
46 information from them.

47  
48 And I'm getting tired of hearing, you know,  
49 all these things about other people coming in and I know  
50 you guys are going to try and have a meeting between us and

1 them, other people, but still, because they got the bigger  
2 money than we do -- we're just poor people living there,  
3 the attention is going to be given more to these big game  
4 people than they are to the village people who actually  
5 live there. I know Koyukuk and them they're showing some  
6 success, but still we know that the guides are still going  
7 to be coming to moose hunt and that's something we're going  
8 to have to live with on these out of staters flying in in  
9 these nice, fancy airplanes and unloaded off into lakes and  
10 going all over the country, places we can't even get to.  
11 And they're going out with these moose.

12  
13 Aniak people, I'm very good friends with  
14 them, the airline people. And I ask how much moose meat  
15 you guys are hauling out and they all say, what moose meat,  
16 all we're hauling out of your area is the horns. I said,  
17 well, aren't they supposed to have like boxes of meat, you  
18 know, and they come out to get the moose meat to eat and  
19 all this stuff, oh, no, all we're doing is tagging horns  
20 and shipping by Northern Air Cargo, we're not hauling out  
21 any meat. And they wouldn't lie to me, I've been flying  
22 back and forth for about 25 years, between Holy Cross and  
23 Aniak, and they're telling the truth when they tell me you  
24 guys are losing a lot of meat by letting them hunters come  
25 in.

26  
27 So I know what I'm saying when I say  
28 there's a lot of wanton waste. I know what I'm saying when  
29 I say we're trying to do our best to keep our lands there  
30 with our game and our fish for our generations to come.  
31 It's not saying it just to hear myself talk.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angela. I do have  
36 a question and, I, too, don't know who to address this to.  
37 But on the bottom of Page 68, effect of the proposal, that  
38 first line, adoption of the proposal would restrict access  
39 for Federally-qualified subsistence users, where does that  
40 come into play?

41  
42 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, what that is in  
43 reference to, that anyone living in the communities down  
44 there, in other words, local subsistence users who happen  
45 to own airplanes and access the proposed closure area for  
46 the purposes of harvesting moose or taking moose meat out  
47 of the area with the airplane would also be affected by  
48 this. They would also fall under the same restriction.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Further comments

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1 or discussion. We do have a motion on the floor to adopt  
2 Proposal 29.

3

4 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: I want to clarify then, if we  
9 vote in favor of this it will close any Federal land within  
10 that triangle basically on the east side there where we  
11 drew that line but we have to understand that quite a bit  
12 of it's going to be State land and there would have to be a  
13 State action to actually complete that. I mean that  
14 closure in there, is that an understanding -- and -- yeah,  
15 okay. Yeah, I kind of question how many subsistence  
16 hunters are flying in there, too, unless they're coming out  
17 of Aniak or somewhere because I'm not aware of anyone from  
18 Holy Cross, Anvik or Grayling that has a float plane that  
19 would fly in there as a subsistence hunter, most of them  
20 have boats and would be hauling it out by boat, I don't  
21 know. I was curious about where those comments come from  
22 unless they're people from the Kuskokwim or somewhere that  
23 are flying over there -- or Bethel that are flying over  
24 with float planes.

25

26 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, that was thrown  
27 in as a process consideration for you. Just so you  
28 understand, if the Board were to adopt this restriction it  
29 would also effect local users who may happen to use  
30 airplane for this reason. I don't have names of people, I  
31 don't have numbers for you. But I'm saying, that would be  
32 part of the restriction you would need to take into  
33 consideration.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Taylor.

40

41 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you. Some questions  
42 were asked as to land status of the BLM blocks of land  
43 involved in the potential closure area and these are lands  
44 that would be managed out of the Anchorage Field Office.  
45 So unfortunately, none of us are able to provide you with  
46 precise detail.

47

48 I would like to go on and make the general  
49 comment that cooperative management planing and problem-  
50 solving of this sort often takes many years and we've seen

1 very constructive examples, today, about all of the effort  
2 that has gone into cooperative moose management on the  
3 Koyukuk River. The comment was made that we'd like to see  
4 some of the same work done on the Innoko River and I  
5 believe for the first time we actually have some specific  
6 funding set aside to convene user groups, stakeholder  
7 groups to talk together and work out these shared  
8 solutions. I think the point that the Federal Subsistence  
9 Board can only act in a limited part of this area is a  
10 fairly significant point. To be truly effective, to  
11 achieve the goals that will address these issues, it would  
12 be more helpful to have joint action by the State Board of  
13 Game and the Federal Subsistence Board at the same time.  
14 And since we have a user group forum, we have resources  
15 made available to start that process now, I would speak in  
16 favor of working through a user group conflict resolution  
17 process to achieve a joint change in both State and Federal  
18 regulations.

19  
20 I've just asked of Terry, whether that  
21 would result in a great delay or whether the State Board  
22 would be able to address this question soon. And he said  
23 that the schedule is such that the Alaska Board of Game  
24 would be able to address a question of this sort in the  
25 next annual cycle. So I think there's some specific  
26 opportunities to work together with the various user groups  
27 and then to go to both the State and the Federal Boards  
28 next year seeking a joint action that would affect the  
29 entire block of land that we think needs to be protected  
30 here.

31  
32 I think the importance of the conflicts has  
33 been amply demonstrated in the testimony. There is a  
34 problem. There is a need to address this directly, step by  
35 step, starting now, and I think this user group conflict  
36 resolution group constitutes an effective way to move  
37 forward.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor. Anymore  
42 discussion. We do have a motion on the floor to adopt.  
43 Jack.

44  
45 MR. REAKOFF: Taylor, what is the time line  
46 of this user conflict, that will begin this spring some  
47 time or summer or what?

48 MR. BRELSFORD: The money has been set  
49 aside as of Monday last week, February 26th, when the Board  
50 met and recognized the need to draw together the various

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1 stakeholders starting at -- looking both at the fisheries  
2 issues and at the moose issues. Generally speaking, I know  
3 that the Fisheries Information Services is trying to settle  
4 the cooperative agreements to initiate that work within the  
5 next month, so I think I would say the time frame to begin  
6 this would be within the next six to eight weeks, actually  
7 trying to commence the work on the ground.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further questions.  
10 Discussion. Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, since we're on  
13 that cooperative thing, it might be -- what Taylor brought  
14 up, the conflict resolution, it might be wise at this point  
15 to ask Jim Schwarber up. I've been asked on the federal  
16 side to take charge of that process and so we are trying to  
17 put that together and are looking at some time lines  
18 similar to what Taylor has set out. But Jim Schwarber was  
19 looking at it from his perspective and his status within  
20 Fish and Game, I don't know if that's appropriate now or  
21 not. I've been in consultation with Jim and in  
22 consultation with a couple other people and where we're  
23 going to go with this. So it's up to the Council if you'd  
24 like to hear from Jim, he's done some background  
25 discussions on this.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jim, are you still around  
28 or.....

29

30 MR. SCHWARBER: Yes, I can do that now.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, please, we'd like to  
33 put everything together and get it over with.

34

35

36 MR. SCHWARBER: Mr. Chair, my name is Jim  
37 Schwarber, I work as a planner with the Department of Fish  
38 and Game within the Sportfish Division. I'll be real brief  
39 in my comments just to update you on the approach that the  
40 Sportfish is taking in response to the issues you've been  
41 discussing on, primarily again the fisheries issues as they  
42 result in concerns we've been hearing around the table  
43 today and we've been hearing in Nulato last September and  
44 October and at other forums.

45

46 Basically the Sportfish Division's  
47 attention was brought to this matter in regards to a  
48 proposal that came up to close sportfishing there and so we  
49 started examining this from several different perspectives.  
50 What ended up taking place, briefly, there was another



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1 proposal to reduce the bag limits for pike in that area  
2 which I believe the Board of Fish did approve recently so  
3 there's been a reduction in the bag limit on pike. That  
4 wasn't meant to correct the problems but was just a start  
5 in that direction. Also a research proposal was submitted  
6 to the Federal Fisheries Information Service to do some  
7 comprehensive research on the pike status and trends in the  
8 Innoko River. We were disappointed that that funding  
9 wasn't available to fund that research at this time but I  
10 would like to bring some news on that front that Region 3  
11 of the Sportfish Division has decided to fund a \$70,000  
12 pike project out of its own funding starting in fiscal year  
13 2002 because we all agreed that there is a need to get some  
14 information about the biology of the pike there.

15  
16 But in addition to the biological  
17 questions, as a planner, last November, I put together a  
18 concept paper which we're passing around, where I proposed  
19 that we gather some information to get a better  
20 understanding of the different perspectives on the user  
21 conflicts and the user issues involving fisheries on the  
22 Innoko, and once that information is gathered, to design an  
23 appropriate public process or stakeholder process to  
24 perhaps convene a working group to start addressing these  
25 issues and find, you know, if there's -- at a minimum to  
26 have some communication among the parties, improve  
27 understanding among the parties and perhaps explore some  
28 actions that could take place or some recommendations, but  
29 at least to build some understanding on that.

30  
31 Where we are right now is we're -- the  
32 Sportfish Division, with its own funds has been doing this  
33 assessment process. We were pleasantly surprised last week  
34 when the Federal Board set aside some money that will  
35 actually fund a process in this area. So we're actually  
36 all working, I think, in the same direction and my purpose  
37 for coming here is to just share information with you that  
38 we are interested in finding a working group approach that  
39 will work for that. My boss is supportive of having me  
40 take a lead role in that if that's the wish of the  
41 stakeholders but we're trying to involve all the parties as  
42 we move ahead with both the Councils and the local  
43 communities and the different agencies.

44  
45 And to wrap this up, Mr. Chair, we do have  
46 some money for research, an assessment which is underway  
47 which we would like to finish probably in April which would  
48 lead to developing, with the appropriate parties, an  
49 investigation plan for the use of this money. But that's  
50 still ahead of us, but we wanted to just let folks know

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1 that the Sportfish Division is committed to working in this  
2 area with the affected stakeholders.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: This Council was involved in  
5 setting aside some of this money so I think at that time we  
6 specifically asked that it include game management, so  
7 you've got to find more money or you've got that money?  
8 Vince.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair. Jim did cover  
11 that also, it's going to be a joint effort. It's exciting  
12 to have people wanting to get on to plan things instead of  
13 trying to get people interested in planning. So right now  
14 we're trying to work through all that. But it was clear  
15 from the actions of the Federal Subsistence Board that this  
16 would look at the user conflicts and it would incorporate  
17 wildlife so we just haven't had a chance to talk to  
18 everybody about it.

19

20 So I don't think there will be a need for  
21 additional money but we don't know, we haven't really met  
22 to discuss all that so we're going to have to work this  
23 out. But it is going to cover the conflicts for the areas  
24 as I understand it, not just in the fish light.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further  
27 discussion? Any comments? Randy. The mike please.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you did send a  
30 letter in on this earlier and this is the follow-up kind of  
31 to the letter. Randy may cover that, where in an earlier  
32 meeting it was discussed about supporting a wildlife  
33 planning effort and you drafted a letter and sent it in.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Randy.

36

37 MR. ROGERS: Yes, just to be brief. We  
38 received the letter. You know, I'd already been talking  
39 with David James and others about that this was a potential  
40 project, working with moose in the GASH area. It's a  
41 project that's pretty high on our list and it is  
42 conceivable that we might have attempted to launch the  
43 project by now were it not for the fact that the area  
44 biologist, Toby Budreau, is pretty completely involved in  
45 the Unit 19(D) situation there in McGrath and I guess it  
46 was our judgment that that was a more urgent situation to  
47 address, at least, initially. So at this point I can tell  
48 you that it's pretty high on the list.

49

50 As you guys are probably aware, we have

1 launched a planning effort for Yukon Flats moose, that's my  
2 major project right now. I've been told a little bit about  
3 the recent funding proposal and the fact that this does  
4 potentially involve moose but I haven't had a chance to  
5 communicate with Vince or others about how we might  
6 approach a cooperative effort there, so I really think  
7 there's a need for us to get together to sort this out and  
8 that we would certainly be interested in contributing to  
9 that effort. I'm not sure exactly how it would play out  
10 but I can, at least, assure you that it's high on our list  
11 of priorities, you know, within the Staff capabilities that  
12 we have.

13  
14                   You know, I guess to be quite honest, I'm  
15 concerned that I would have sufficient time to really  
16 devote to this to do it right and we don't want to really  
17 even get into it unless we're convinced we were prepared to  
18 do it right.

19  
20                   But I think between all the combined  
21 agencies involved in this that there's certainly potential  
22 there. So, you know, I'm certainly interested in working  
23 with Vince, Jim Schwarber and others to see how we could  
24 approach it. As far as immediate time line, I can't tell  
25 you what that adds up to, but my guess is that it would  
26 take a little while to get it organized and launched and it  
27 would be a little bit of a precedent setting thing to have  
28 a project that combined the fish and game issues at once.  
29 It makes almost too much sense for our bureaucracies, but I  
30 think we ought to give it a try. Anyhow, I hope that helps  
31 a little bit.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

34  
35                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I've got a question for  
36 Henry as the proposer of the motion. Henry, would you feel  
37 comfortable if we maybe endorsed the concept of expanding  
38 the controlled use area but refer it to this working group  
39 instead of to the State Board so that the working group  
40 could look at both the State and the Federal land and try  
41 to come up with a solution that would fix the whole thing  
42 as opposed to just approving it now and referring it to the  
43 State Board who could only act on a portion of it? Would  
44 you feel.....

45  
46                   MR. DEACON: Are they in motion to act on  
47 this now, how soon will it be?

48  
49                   MR. COLLINS: Well, they're just in the  
50 process of forming this committee now is what we're hearing

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1 but this would be one of the things on the table then, they  
2 could look at it; can we solve these problems by expanding  
3 the controlled use area covering both State and Federal  
4 lands.

5 MR. DEACON: Okay. Well, I can live with  
6 that, I think, as long as they don't take too long.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Angela, would you be willing  
9 to wait or not on this one?

10  
11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Uh-huh.

12  
13 MR. COLLINS: Well, if that's the case  
14 then, Mr. Chairman, I would move a substitute motion that  
15 we replace this with a motion -- or use the mover and  
16 seconder with their understanding that this get adopted but  
17 referred to the committee as opposed to being referred to  
18 the Board, whichever is.....

19  
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you understand this,  
21 Angela, that we refer this to the working group that we  
22 intend to form shortly?

23  
24 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you understand this,  
27 Henry, that we will refer it to the working group between  
28 all the user conflicts on the GASH area? Refer that  
29 because I think that would be best at this time and that  
30 way we can work through both State and Federal Boards to  
31 alleviate this problem.

32  
33 MR. DEACON: Yeah, well, I'll agree with it  
34 as long as they make it a priority.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray, maybe you could amend  
37 the motion that we keep it on the back burner but at this  
38 time we just refer it to the working group that's being  
39 formed, just amend the motion or something? Anybody.  
40 Angela moved and Henry.

41  
42 MR. COLLINS: So it's theirs.....

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you move to adopt this --  
45 how would we fix this?

46  
47 MR. COLLINS: Well, I was thinking  
48 parliamentary, I guess, mover and seconder, if they agreed  
49 to adopt but to refer to the working group instead of  
50 referring it to the Federal Board at this point. Do you

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1 understand that? Yeah.

2

3 MR. DEACON: I'd like to know the reason  
4 why you'd want to refer it to the -- it's more -- if we do  
5 that -- not otherwise.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, at this time we'll take  
8 a break and come back for more discussion. How much time  
9 do we need, about 15 minutes -- five or 10 minutes. Go  
10 ahead and get coffee.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'll call the Western  
17 Interior Council meeting back to order. Any further  
18 discussion, we do have a motion on the floor -- any further  
19 discussion?

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I thought about  
26 how to proceed with this proposal during the break and I  
27 think to retain the proposal, the idea within this Council,  
28 to table the proposal so that -- and then move that idea  
29 forward to the planning group and if the planning group  
30 flies all apart, the proposal will be in our packet again  
31 next fall as far as I know, so I would think that by  
32 tabling the proposal at this Council level will retain it  
33 in the Council and then move that idea forward to the  
34 planning group, and if the group doesn't work it will be on  
35 our agenda next fall.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Jack, in the group we also  
40 talked about a solution that we go ahead and approve it,  
41 which would take it to the Federal Subsistence Board and  
42 then the Federal Subsistence Board could refer it to the  
43 committee; you see what I mean, because it's our  
44 endorsement? That's kind of what happened up the Koyukuk  
45 where there was a proposal to close an area and then that  
46 got referred -- so it might be an incentive for getting the  
47 working group going.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion? We  
50 do have a motion and a second to approve Proposal 29 with

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1 all the ramifications -- man, I can't even talk  
2 anymore.....

3

4 MR. COLLINS: The modified proposal.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this right now, then,  
7 Vince, that we did modify?

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Do we have to label it  
10 modified proposal to make sure that that's what we're  
11 endorsing?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't think so, I think  
14 it's understood by all agencies and all Council members  
15 here that if we do pass this that the only thing we hit is  
16 the Federal lands and is that clear?

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the mover of the motion  
19 and the second, do they understand that it's the modified  
20 -- that's the question before us so the mover of the motion  
21 was Angela and I think the second was -- was it Henry or  
22 was it Ray?

23

24 REPORTER: It was Henry.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: It was Henry. So do they  
27 understand that the motion was addressing the modified  
28 proposal, if they do then we just move ahead, if they don't  
29 then they can do a friendly amendment and clarify it that  
30 it's for the modified proposal.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: What modification are we  
33 talking about now, I thought we were just going to.....

34

35 MR. COLLINS: The original one was all of  
36 21, the modified one is something less.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's already understood  
39 isn't it?

40

41 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: (Nods affirmatively)

42

43 MR. DEACON: (Nods affirmatively)

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's what I was  
46 trying to get on the record that it's understood and  
47 Angela's heading her head in the positive motion, so that  
48 should be recorded on the record. And does the second  
49 understand that?

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, he's nodding yes also.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: He's nodding in the positive  
4 motion, too.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, it's clear. It's  
7 clearly understood by all Council members and the Chair  
8 will call the question then. So all in favor of the motion  
9 to adopt Proposal 29, with the amendment, signify by saying  
10 aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just so I can  
21 keep track of this, you did support the proposal as  
22 modified by the proponent and that the reasoning for  
23 supporting the proposal was taken from testimony from Mr.  
24 Reakoff citing Section 815 of ANILCA that restricting of  
25 non-subsistence uses on public lands can only occur unless  
26 necessary for conservation of healthy populations or to  
27 allow the continued subsistence uses of such populations;  
28 is that -- I think that's the intent of the motion was to  
29 accommodate Section 815 of ANILCA.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Well.....

34

35 MR. REAKOFF: That's not -- I didn't say  
36 that during this proceeding but that's what the Board is  
37 going to do. The Board is going to have to address this  
38 proposal under that line and what -- you know, if we would  
39 have tabled and let the Board be aware of this proposal --  
40 but if we propose it to the Board, the Board can't do  
41 anything with it, they'll have to put it at the user group,  
42 it will still come back -- it's going to bounce back to us  
43 one way or another.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Terry.

46

47 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chair, I'm a little  
48 unclear about where you're going with this. Now, it's my  
49 understanding that the Council has just supported the  
50 modified proposal. It was my intent that you wanted to

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1 have direction to the Federal Board that they would refer  
2 this to the working group that's being created?

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's our intention at this  
5 time. But we do -- still look forward to getting it  
6 somehow in front of the State Board to expand this  
7 controlled use area at some time or another.

8

9 MR. HAYNES: If I could, Mr. Chairman, I  
10 might encourage you to include some language to that effect  
11 so that when this goes to the Federal Board Staff Committee  
12 for deliberation, they have a clear understanding of your  
13 intent. And with that language included, that you're  
14 wanting to have the Board look at this, refer it to this  
15 new committee that's being created, it will be much easier  
16 to get the Department's support for this.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

19

20 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I make a motion to  
21 have a cover letter drafted to the Board regarding this  
22 proposal that it's our intention that it go before the  
23 Innoko working group, to be resolved at that level but also  
24 if that process fails that it will be returned for  
25 reconsideration.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. All those  
30 in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

31

32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Does that  
39 take care of it?

40

41 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 30.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Proposal  
46 30, Laura's going to be the presenter of the analysis on  
47 that and I'm just a little flat-footed here on the page and  
48 all that so maybe we can catch up here through Laura.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right, we've got it,



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1 it's on Page 74. I think that's the first page. The Chair  
2 will entertain a motion to adopt or support Proposal No.  
3 30.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: I so move Mr. Chairman.

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded  
10 to adopt Proposal 30. Staff analysis.

11

12 MS. JURGENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
13 your booklets there was an error with the printing, Page 81  
14 and 82 there's a Tab D, divider and it continues -- then  
15 there's a cover page for the Koyukuk Moose Management plan,  
16 at least that was in my book -- it was only my book that  
17 had that?

18

19 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

20

21 MS. JURGENSEN: Never mind. Laura  
22 Jurgensen, Office of Subsistence Management. Proposal 30  
23 submitted by Jack Wholecheese, first chief of the Huslia  
24 Tribal Council requests the creation of a new Federal  
25 controlled use area in Unit 24 directly adjacent to the  
26 existing Koyukuk controlled use area or KCUA. The intent  
27 is to protect moose numbers from air taxis, transporting  
28 non-local hunters beyond the KCUA. The proponent states  
29 that non-local fly-in hunters will overharvest the country  
30 where people from Huslia hunt for moose and bear. The  
31 Huslia and Dakli River are tributaries of the Koyukuk and  
32 are upriver from the village of Huslia. Both river  
33 drainages have a high density of lakes and support moose  
34 that have reportedly become the focus of attention by some  
35 guided hunters.

36

37 Huslia residents report that non-local fly-  
38 in hunters are targeting moose directly outside the KCUA  
39 boundary. They believe guided hunters are overharvesting  
40 the moose population on the lower Dakli/Huslia River  
41 drainage north of Treat Island. This area lies just  
42 outside the perimeter of the KCUA.

43

44 The proposed, I'll call it CUA for the new  
45 Dakli controlled use CUA, is mainly on Federal public lands  
46 consisting of approximately 21 percent each of BLM,  
47 National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife. The majority  
48 being the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. Rural  
49 residents of Unit 24 and residents of Anaktuvuk Pass,  
50 Koyukuk, Galena all have a customary and traditional use

1 for moose in Unit 24.

2

3 Referring to your map again, the  
4 descriptions of the potential new controlled use area, I  
5 worked on with the proponent, Jack Wholecheese and again he  
6 gave me some guidance as far as what the boundaries were  
7 and what the Huslia's traditional hunting grounds were. As  
8 you all know, user conflict issues in this area, including  
9 hunter competition and congestion for moose have been a  
10 consistent concern of local residents, at least, since the  
11 early 1980s when numbers of non-local hunters began  
12 increasing in the area. Local residents have repeatedly  
13 reported to land managers about the problems with  
14 overcrowding, increased competition and wanton waste of  
15 fish and wildlife resources. The Alaska Board of Game or  
16 BOG addressed the issue of increasing numbers of fly-in  
17 hunters by creating controlled use areas. There was strong  
18 local support at this time for the KCUA voiced from Huslia,  
19 Galena, Alatna, Hughes and others. Most, if not all  
20 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the area under  
21 consideration do not use airplanes to subsistence hunt,  
22 rather, they chiefly depend on motorized boats, snowshoes,  
23 snowmachines, sleds and their own two legs.

24

25 There are non-Federally qualified users who  
26 access these areas via airplanes usually out of Bettles or  
27 Galena. In 2000 the Board of Game changed its fall season  
28 regulations for moose in the Koyukuk controlled use area by  
29 adopting the recommendations of the Koyukuk Moose Hunter's  
30 Working Group as Randy and others spoke of and you had a  
31 good review of that and this shifted the fall subsistence  
32 season five days earlier to provide 10 days of subsistence  
33 hunting before the general hunting season began basically  
34 giving Huslia and other residents first crack at the moose  
35 in their area and the Federal Subsistence Board adopted  
36 similar regulations in the 2000/2001 regulatory year. And  
37 then as Mike Walleri and the Koyukuk Task Force spoke, they  
38 also have submitted special action requests and now  
39 proposals addressing potential overuse and harvest of this  
40 area of non-locals, perhaps non-residents.

41

42 With the draft Koyukuk Moose Management  
43 plan, the 2000 season tested its provisions. It appears  
44 that the 2000 hunt was a success for subsistence users and  
45 a few non-local users. For purposes of this plan, Unit 24  
46 has been divided into management zones and depending on  
47 moose population density, hunter numbers, and methods of  
48 access. The uniform coding units or UCUs directed these  
49 zone boundaries in order to carefully monitor moose  
50 population and harvest amounts. Now, the areas involving

1 the proposed controlled use area covered by the map are  
2 areas 301, which is the main Huslia River, 302 Kaiyuk area,  
3 303 Billy Hawk Creek, 304 Huslia River, Southfork, 305  
4 Huslia River, northfork, and 401 Dakli River. The plan and  
5 the working group have taken the population of this entire  
6 area into consideration for the draft Koyukuk Moose  
7 Management plan.

8

9 At the last moose management working group,  
10 concern was voiced over guides and air taxis flying hunters  
11 into non-Koyukuk controlled use area -- protected area  
12 lakes, though the majority of comments were positive,  
13 adding that they would like to revisit all issues at least  
14 annually.

15

16 The Alaska Division of Wildlife Protection  
17 was also encouraged to step up law enforcement in the area  
18 because of reported illegal trespass, wanton waste, dirty  
19 camps and pollution, they did step up their efforts and  
20 apparently local residents voiced their appreciation for  
21 that.

22

23 But as far as the biological background and  
24 you've heard some of this earlier by Fish and Game staff,  
25 aerial surveys in November 2000 were conducted in three  
26 parts of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, the Huslia  
27 River Flats, Treat Island and Dulbi River mouth. These  
28 areas total 389 square miles and are adjacent to or near  
29 the proposed controlled use area addition. November snow  
30 conditions were light but apparently adequate for these  
31 aerial surveys. And despite an increase in cows, calf  
32 productivity from this November 2000 survey was low at 14  
33 calves to 100 cows. The management plan indicates a  
34 guideline range of 20 to 30 calves to 100 cows to maintain  
35 population stability. The Treat Island trend count area or  
36 TCA is the closest area for which long-term trend data  
37 exists. In comparison of moose density from 1985 to 1999  
38 surveys indicate an increasing density to 1993 followed by  
39 a decline in moose population to 1998.

40

41 So again, they're basically seeing a  
42 declining trends. I believe you all -- according to the  
43 Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife biologists -- I believe  
44 you all have a copy o a separate sheet here. This was the  
45 most recent moose data we have for Unit 24, specifically  
46 Treat Island and this is provided by a GIS professional  
47 technician out of -- Guy Hughes out of -- or with the  
48 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and he summarizes that it  
49 does appear that the calf and cow ratios are trending down  
50 and at the same time the cows are trending up. One

1 explanation of this data would be that predation on  
2 yearling cows is increasing even though there are more cows  
3 in the population and less calves are surviving the first  
4 year.

5  
6 While these recent decreases may not be  
7 specifically significant, they probably indicate a  
8 biological trend that should definitely be monitored  
9 closely. Declining productivity might be more difficult to  
10 address by short-term management actions if it is part of a  
11 long-term trend related to habitat or predation conditions.

12  
13 As far as harvest, as you well all know,  
14 this is an area of very high harvest and high success rate.  
15 It has been increasing steadily over the past decade,  
16 especially in Ella's check cabin, recorded a total of 731  
17 hunters in 1999 with 367 moose harvested. Now, this  
18 compares to 299 hunters who harvested 181 moose 10 years  
19 ago or 1988.

20  
21 In 1998 and 1999, Dave Andersen and others  
22 did harvest surveys door to door in the middle Yukon and  
23 Koyukuk households with 91 percent of the households  
24 reporting using moose. And this area is the highest use in  
25 the state as far as people using moose and it's an  
26 incredibly important subsistence resource as it is in all  
27 areas of the state, I realize. And then Huslia and Alatna  
28 had 100 percent households participating with high rates of  
29 success in these moose hunts and moose reporting. And the  
30 available harvest data isn't -- it's not as rich as it  
31 could be but it does show increasing pressure by non-locals  
32 using boats and not aircraft with a few aircraft access  
33 hunters before 2000. Now, of the 12 hunters reported to  
34 have hunted in the Dakli River area, 11 were non-resident  
35 hunters using guide services and they reported using boat  
36 access and not airplanes. It was reported that during the  
37 1999 season an aircraft had landed on Solismunket Lake  
38 immediately outside the KCUA and dropped off hunters. And  
39 it was not clear as to the actual area as far as the land  
40 boundary or whether it was inside or outside of the KCUA.

41  
42 As a result of other 2000 regulatory  
43 changes, the guides took a 75 percent cut in their  
44 commercial business and guides are still taking customers  
45 through the Huslia airport but there are fewer due to the  
46 fewer permits available to them.

47  
48 It has been suggested by State and Federal  
49 personnel working in Unit 24 and it's been suggested to the  
50 proponent, Chief Jack Wholecheese to, perhaps work this

1 type of proposal through the working group process since  
2 it's information and a lot of these problems are on the  
3 burner and are being addressed -- or on the table, I should  
4 say.

5  
6 As far as the important cultural  
7 background, specific traditional use within these areas has  
8 been documented extensively for the Dakli and Huslia River,  
9 of course, including the Hogatza, Kateel and Gisasa.  
10 They're long-term traditional hunting, fishing gathering  
11 areas presumably since the day of the old site of Kateel in  
12 the Koyukuk. The Koyukon have traditional rules of  
13 behavior or taboos called hutlaane which govern all  
14 behavior including respectful treatment and non-waste of  
15 what the animals provide for the people. A common  
16 Athabascan value is the great respect for elders, knowledge  
17 and wisdom of life experiences. This is especially true  
18 and current in Huslia and the other Koyukuk River villages.  
19 Many are expert outdoorsmen who intimately know the cycles  
20 for their food resources. Therefore, careful consideration  
21 should be given to proponent First Chief Jack Wholecheese  
22 as he witnesses the moose numbers and hunter patterns on a  
23 different and non-agency perspective. His experience and  
24 perspectives on this issue have merit.

25  
26 Access to area lakes and other spots very  
27 far away from Huslia favors fly-in, non-local hunters due  
28 to the amount of gear, price of gas, amount of meat to pack  
29 out and other factors. Local subsistence users rely on  
30 those moose ranging across these lake areas toward the  
31 rivers for their subsistence harvest.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page are we on?

34  
35 MS. JURGENSEN: I'm sorry?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: What page are we on and how  
38 many more pages do you have to go?

39  
40 MS. JURGENSEN: I'm sorry, I'll wrap it up,  
41 I'm taking too long, Page 85.

42  
43 Okay, I believe the potential effects of  
44 this proposal would add an additional 397 square miles and  
45 presumably an increased number of available permits.  
46 Therefore, the intent to protect subsistence users harvest  
47 success rates might have the opposite effect by increasing  
48 the numbers of hunters eligible to hunt in the new  
49 controlled use area.

1                   So after much deliberation and certainly  
2 this is not a black and white issue, my preliminary  
3 conclusion was to oppose the proposal because it didn't  
4 seem like the problem was really with aircraft transporting  
5 non-local guided hunters in. There did appear to be a  
6 potential trend, though, in that area with non-locals and  
7 perhaps a guide targeting that area with boats and the  
8 creation of a new controlled use area would not address  
9 this problem as far as I could ascertain.

10  
11                   I'd also just like to thank everyone who  
12 helped on this proposal and acknowledge that the proponent  
13 is in attendance today and thank him for working with me.  
14 Thanks.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Laura, does this  
17 proposal encompass all Federal lands -- or only Federal  
18 lands?

19  
20                   MS. JURGENSEN: Yes, only Federal lands and  
21 it puts potentially approximately a half a township of  
22 Doyon lands so State jurisdictional control there.

23                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Terry.

24  
25                   MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The  
26 Department does not support this proposal. Our comments  
27 are on Page 90 of your workbook. Hunting pressure in this  
28 area that's proposed for closure is very low and probably  
29 involves fewer than 20 hunters annually. The harvest of  
30 moose by these hunters is well below sustainable yield.  
31 Most of these hunters access the area by river boat and  
32 therefore would not be impacted by the proposed  
33 prohibitions on aircraft use. Adoption of this proposal  
34 also would be inconsistent with provisions of the Koyukuk  
35 River Moose Management plan.

36  
37                   Thank you.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Terry. Vince,  
40 what's next on this?

41  
42                   MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, now, would be  
43 the time if there is any public testimony and real quickly,  
44 for my part, there is no written public comments.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack  
47 Wholecheese, there's a microphone up there, turn it on and  
48 state your name.

49  
50                   MR. WHOLECHEESE: My name is Jack

1 Wholecheese, First Chief, Huslia, Alaska. The reason we  
2 submitted this proposal was that like you said -- what's  
3 your name?

4  
5 MR. HAYNES: Terry.

6  
7 MR. WHOLECHEESE: Terry, you're against  
8 this proposal, I don't see how you could be against  
9 something that you probably don't even know nothing about.  
10 You're not a subsistence user, you're not from my village,  
11 you're not from the Koyukuk River and still, you say, that  
12 there aren't that many hunters going up by airplane. There  
13 are hunters going up by airplane. They're being dropped  
14 off in the lakes and the lakes at Dalki Flats are pretty  
15 close to each other. You could land a person on a lake and  
16 they could canoe over to the next lake and they could canoe  
17 to another lake until they hit the Dalki River and then  
18 float down and do their hunting. I don't know if you took  
19 this into consideration but that's the truth.

20  
21 And then when they do land, we don't have  
22 access to get up there to see how they're treating our  
23 respected lands. We don't know if they're leaving trash  
24 there and as we all know, trash kills animals, too.  
25 There's a lot of traditional use that is being brought in  
26 by Huslia people. It used to be when the guides first  
27 started, they tried to give the meat -- or they did give  
28 the meat to the people in the village but after the first  
29 year I don't think there was a respected person -- a  
30 respected Native elder that would have took the meat that  
31 was brought to them, because it just wasn't worth it. They  
32 wanted to get their own, to preserve their own. And  
33 there's so much to be said about what's going on up there  
34 that it's just too much to say. I mean if we got somebody  
35 who really did some research and stayed up there and found  
36 out what we're going through, you'd get a book. You'd get  
37 a book.

38  
39 And it's been said over and over, and over  
40 and over, for years and years and years, we love our  
41 culture. We want to preserve our culture. We want to go  
42 in the old ways to where the Native people ran their own  
43 subsistence lifestyle. We don't waste. We never used to  
44 go by the government, we didn't have to have a government,  
45 we were our own government. Because the people knew what  
46 to get and what to preserve.

47  
48 That's all I have to say. That's how come  
49 we brought this proposal up. But it went through my whole  
50 tribal council and a lot of our respected elders in Huslia

1 are all for this proposal because a lot of them have  
2 traplines up on Dalki River. We go through Dalki Flats to  
3 go over to Shungnak, over to the hot springs, and we just  
4 want to maintain our moose population and keep it down to  
5 where it's just right for the Native people so that we  
6 don't have to send for beef or chicken. We won't have to  
7 revert and change our own lifestyle. We want to live the  
8 way we've lived and been living from time and memorial.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Was there  
13 anymore public testimony? Virgil Umpenhauer.

14

15 MR. UMPENHOUER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
16 Actually the proposal, what Mr. Wholecheese spoke about  
17 wouldn't bother me a bit. The only thing is, you know, if  
18 no one could fly an airplane up in that area because we  
19 don't use airplanes in our guiding operation. However if  
20 this is included, if this area of the Dakli and Huslia  
21 River are included in the controlled use area then they  
22 will be in the drawing permit area and the only people --  
23 there were only three hunters that were not guided that  
24 hunted there this last year and we hunted actually -- it  
25 was reported earlier that they hunted on the Hogatza River,  
26 they didn't hunt on the Hogatza River, they hunted on the  
27 Huslia River and I know exactly where they hunted because  
28 they got up there and they were lost and didn't know where  
29 they were at and we told them where they were. But the  
30 only guides that operate up there besides my son and myself  
31 all are residents of the village of Huslia, the meat all  
32 goes to their families and like I said earlier, to disabled  
33 and old people and single mothers. That is where the meat  
34 goes to.

35

36 The Dakli River, in a normal water year, a  
37 person with a small boat with a prop on it can go almost to  
38 the edge of the wildlife refuge but not quite, they can't  
39 quite go that far. If it's a low water year, even with a  
40 jet boat, you have trouble getting up there. It's a small  
41 stream and the access is extremely difficult. I'll tell  
42 you how many hunters hunted in the Dakli last year, we took  
43 two hunters up the Dakli River last year, that's all. And  
44 the Huslia River, we took seven hunters outside of the  
45 controlled use area. There were the three other hunters,  
46 guys from Wasilla or Willow or someplace.

47

48 Another thing that you should know is that  
49 the village of Huslia does not sell gas to hunters. They  
50 have to bring their gas all the way from either Galena or



1 Koyukuk or do like I do, charter a DC-4 and fly it in and  
2 then haul my other gas from Hughes. And so very few  
3 hunters hunt there. A few air taxi operators have dropped  
4 people off on some of those lakes in the past, I don't  
5 think they've been very successful. I've talked to some of  
6 their clients that they've dropped off. Only one moose was  
7 shot in this area by a resident of Huslia and his name was  
8 Warner Vint, he was the only person that shot a moose up  
9 the Huslia River this year. The people who live in Huslia  
10 do not hunt outside of the controlled use area on the Dakli  
11 River primarily because the only jet boats in that village  
12 I own or myself and the guides that work with me in Huslia  
13 own. The Huslia River, you have to go from the village of  
14 Huslia to get outside of the controlled use area by boat,  
15 if you go up the Huslia River it's 60 miles, to get up the  
16 Dakli River from the village it's 70 miles, but that's how  
17 many river miles it is.

18  
19 But I just -- because I spend the entire  
20 month of September up there, I'd like you to know what I  
21 see. Now, I also -- because we have a camp, normally the  
22 guys from Koyukuk and Kaltag, the guides that live there,  
23 they operate in the lower Kateel River and then if we have  
24 permits, in the Three Day Slough area. And so if I make  
25 that trip -- this last year I made it three times during  
26 the hunting season besides the first time going up. The  
27 first time going up because I drive my boat that I use from  
28 the bridge, I went up the river to the Kateel, I spent the  
29 night of the 2nd of September on the Kateel, drove up to  
30 Huslia on the 3rd and I came back down on the 4th and back  
31 up on the 6th, all the way up to the Dakli River, when I  
32 made that trip, I saw a total of 10 camps between Huslia  
33 and the Kateel River, that's all. And then when I came  
34 back down again on the 16th, I saw a total of 11 camps,  
35 that's all I saw but I didn't go into Three Day Slough, but  
36 on the main river. And then I came down again on the 21st  
37 of September and again I saw 11 camps, there were very few  
38 people hunting in the area. But prior to the permit  
39 drawing thing, I would maybe see 50 camps. But the most I  
40 saw at any one time was 11 camps.

41  
42 So the only thing that would happen if this  
43 gets included in the controlled use area and it's part of  
44 the drawing permit process, is a bunch more permits will be  
45 issued because there are a lot of moose in this area, but  
46 those people will not hunt in the Dakli or Huslia drainages  
47 because it's too far to get there. They have to haul their  
48 gas, a minimum of where they can hunt, from Galena, a very  
49 minimum of 320 miles one way to get there. And you can't  
50 take a small jet boat that will go up that stream and carry

00098

1 that much gas.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, proposals like  
8 this and other ones that you've dealt with we usually try  
9 to get all the different agencies up to the table so it  
10 might be a good time to ask the Refuge if they have any  
11 comments or would just like to participate in this  
12 discussion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That was my next move  
15 because I see Gene Williams here and I see Pollack Simon  
16 raising his hand. Pollack Simon, did you want to testify  
17 on Proposal 30? Pollack Simon of Allakaket.

18

19 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I think I'm on the right  
20 topic this time.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. SIMON: The last time I was talking  
25 about a different proposal so, thanks again for inviting  
26 me.

27

28 I kind of want to support what Jack  
29 Wholecheese has said. I am the Chairman of the Koyukuk  
30 River Advisory Committee and we've had a lot of meetings  
31 over the years in Huslia and the residents concern was  
32 always the hunter pressure from outside on the declining  
33 moose. This is one way to try to ward off the outside  
34 hunters. It's really true that below Huslia, you know, the  
35 hunting pressure is reduced there, they have to go  
36 someplace and maybe they -- more would be hunting up Dakli  
37 River. I, personally don't like to see a lot of hunting  
38 pressure there because I know from previous meetings in  
39 Huslia, the residents are really concerned about the moose  
40 population and they can't compete with outside hunters.

41

42 That area has more moose than a lot of  
43 areas so I am personally concerned about the moose around  
44 that area, too. Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pollack. At this  
47 time I would like to call on Gene Williams, Refuge manager.  
48 Yeah, I see Orville Huntington up on the table. One of the  
49 reasons that I wanted you out here is because earlier you  
50 stated that there was very little aircraft operations up in

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1 this country, are you still of the same thought?

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, that is  
4 correct. I will ask Orville to present the information  
5 we've gleaned from our Refuge files identifying what has  
6 actually occurred out there in the last three hunting  
7 seasons. I'd do that, insomuch as Orville was contacted  
8 early on by the Office of Subsistence Management. They  
9 engaged him in dialogue -- so from the Refuge's standpoint,  
10 i'd like to use him to help us reach closure on this  
11 particular issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Orville, state  
14 your name and your position, please.

15

16 MR. HUNTINGTON: Orville Huntington,  
17 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge. I've handed out a little table  
18 there that shows how much aircraft use was used for moose  
19 hunting last fall. As you can see it's very minimal, the  
20 documented use. And I think maybe what a lot of people may  
21 be seeing is the caribou hunters that are flying over. And  
22 I can't really say for sure on a lot of the -- there's a  
23 lot of complaints within the village of Huslia that those  
24 people have to come and document those complaints  
25 themselves, and that's what I tried to stress at the tribal  
26 council meetings when I was there. But as Gene said, the  
27 use of aircraft in that area is very low. I had some other  
28 things here, too, if you want me to talk about them.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, go ahead, Orville.

31

32 MR. HUNTINGTON: Once I got done with the  
33 table I was -- I did have a resolution from Huslia Tribal  
34 Council but I grabbed the wrong one, I grabbed my waterfowl  
35 one and it did support Jack Wholecheese's proposal. I  
36 don't have a copy of that, I think it was Resolution 01-12  
37 and they gave me a copy but I misplaced it, sorry but we  
38 could probably get that for you some time.

39

40 The Refuge's position is the Refuge does  
41 not support Proposal 30 at this time. The data is just not  
42 there to support it. And I have to emphasize, at this  
43 time. And we want to give the Koyukuk Moose Hunter  
44 Management plan time to work. I talked this over with a  
45 lot of people and we're trying to get the kinks out of the  
46 plan and one of the biggest pluses I could see is we have  
47 -- Jack Wholecheese got selected to sit on the working  
48 group, and with him in there I think a lot more can get  
49 done because we'd rather be proactive -- take a proactive  
50 approach to solving problems up there before they get to

1 this point. I'm not saying this is a bad idea it's just  
2 not supported at this time.

3

4 The other thing, aircraft, was not a big  
5 part of this problem right now. As you guys emphasized and  
6 Laura emphasized, that it's probably a lot of boat traffic  
7 and somebody said, nobody hunted up there but actually I  
8 was almost all the way to Blondie's Cabin last fall and I  
9 went up there a couple times so I know I was up Huslia  
10 River hunting. And I've always hunted up Dakli River in  
11 the past with my family so that's just for the record, that  
12 subsistence users use that area.

13

14 The Refuge has authority to establish the  
15 controlled use area of subsistence hunters who qualify are  
16 not meeting their subsistence needs and are not presented  
17 an opportunity of subsistence. And that's -- the Koyukuk  
18 Refuge is very firm on that, you know, if there was a need  
19 they'd be there at the table but right now they just don't  
20 feel that it's appropriate and the Refuge is willing to  
21 revisit the issue if it can be justified by biological  
22 data, if there's really data there then we could look at  
23 it. The data we had last fall at the Koyukuk Moose Hunter  
24 Working Group was not good enough for me to convince the  
25 other working group members -- I take leave and I go to the  
26 working group meetings, Jack wasn't there and we had some  
27 really difficult issues and personally I really wanted to  
28 support Glenn on that even though I'm a subsistence hunter,  
29 you know, that -- I was appointed by the Koyukuk River  
30 Advisory Committee as a subsistence hunter from Huslia and  
31 I just didn't have the necessary votes to do anything  
32 because the working group is not a perfect thing but it's  
33 the best thing we have. It's just on the verge of falling  
34 apart sometimes but somehow we hold it together and I think  
35 Ron has seen where we're at with that and Jack, I know he  
36 just missed one meeting but I've tried to make all of them  
37 and I think that's probably the best thing we have right  
38 now, is that, Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group plan.  
39 It's not the best, it needs fine-tuning, but it's the best  
40 we have for now.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. Any  
43 questions for Orville or Gene Williams? Gene.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: I would simply like to close  
46 with some comments about the air taxi business in general.  
47 We've talked about it many times at the Koyukuk River Moose  
48 Hunter Working Group sessions, it is, an essence, an  
49 unregulated industry from the Refuge perspective. I have  
50 no regulations on which to place a cap on the number of air

1 taxi permits I issue. However, by nature of the business  
2 it is self-regulating, you know, air taxi operators don't  
3 operate as tour bus operators dumping people off in the  
4 same corner. They're usually dealing with clients that are  
5 buying once in a lifetime hunt. Those hunters are  
6 expecting a wilderness experience, they're expecting not to  
7 see anybody else, they're hoping to see the moose of a  
8 lifetime. I think the record here demonstrates that the  
9 Refuge has issued up to six permits for that particular  
10 area in any one year over the last three years. However,  
11 the business -- the numbers of hunters that have been  
12 dumped off out there has been quite small.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gene. Do we have  
15 a motion on the floor -- just for my -- okay. What's the  
16 next step?

17  
18 MR. MATHEWS: You're at the deliberation  
19 phase and open discussion, whatever, ask questions of other  
20 people on this.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before I go any  
23 further, right after this proposal we will be taking up the  
24 Dalton Highway concerns. Ray, you had a question?

25  
26 MR. COLLINS: Well, the question I had was  
27 raised in some of the comments that expanding the area  
28 would increase the number of permits and have an impact on  
29 the moose management plan in place. Could someone clarify  
30 on that, if this or is not the case and how it might  
31 impact?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Glenn, could you answer  
34 that?

35  
36 MR. STOUT: Mr. Collins, it was a little  
37 unclear in the proposal exactly how we would administer the  
38 controlled use area, whether it would be actually a new  
39 controlled use area or whether it would be an increase in  
40 the size of the Koyukuk controlled use area. There was  
41 some discussion in the proposal that it was actually an  
42 increase in the size of the Koyukuk controlled use area.  
43 If that were the case and we expanded the size of  
44 consideration for the moose population in the moose plan,  
45 we would effectively count more moose. If we count more  
46 moose then, because our strategy was based on the number of  
47 moose in the population for distribution of permits, then  
48 it would allow for the distribution of more permits. If  
49 that were the case, those hunters wouldn't go up there.  
50 They wouldn't go up there. Just because there's more

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1 permits that would allow them to access that area, they  
2 would still congregate right down in the Three Day Slough  
3 where they always have and we would be right back to where  
4 we were by having concentrations of a lot of hunters in  
5 that same place that's easily accessible because, like  
6 we've discussed earlier here, the logistics of getting  
7 really past Huslia is very tremendous and so if we just  
8 increase the number of moose permits available we'd be  
9 right back to the higher density of moose hunters in the  
10 area.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Glenn. Just for  
13 clarification on my stand, too, again, going back to our  
14 arguments with -- or our deliberations with Mr. Walleri,  
15 while Glenn is here, that's one of the reasons, I think  
16 that the working group stayed within that number, because  
17 we expanded the area to issue permits all the way up to  
18 Hughes to -- prior to this, you know, we were just working  
19 below Huslia, and that's one of the reasons that we stayed  
20 with that figure. And again, with this proposal, if we add  
21 more area, we may be looking at issuing more permits up in  
22 this area where people don't want anymore permits. And I'd  
23 like to thank you for bringing that back up.

24

25 Jack.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: What would be your best guess  
28 as to density in that Dakli Flats country?

29

30 MR. STOUT: We don't have a trend area up  
31 in there. I would say it's less than two moose per square  
32 mile, probably somewhere on the order of 1.5 moose per  
33 square mile. I would make a correction, too, on some of  
34 that information there. There's discussion in the text  
35 about the size of the increase in the area, and if you  
36 recall, there was a proposal that was also submitted a year  
37 ago for expansion of the controlled use area on the Dakli  
38 River and when that proposal was sent forward, I did an  
39 analysis on that for the Dakli River drainage and I  
40 included the area of the Dakli River drainage which I  
41 basically came up with that figure of 397 square miles and  
42 that figure is for the Dakli River drainage alone, so I  
43 don't know if that's where you were looking at as far as  
44 going in expansion of numbers, but that number in there is  
45 for the Dakli River area and it also included State land,  
46 not just the Federal portion of that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

49

50 MR. REAKOFF: Well, that gives me

1 reservations about this proposal and if it's 500 square  
2 miles, a moose and half a square miles, that's significant  
3 more moose to be harvested and more permits to be handed  
4 out that are going to be used down below on the Three Day  
5 Slough country. So I have compassion for the proponent's  
6 concerns with the numbers of air taxis that are flying  
7 around but if more permits are to be handed out that are  
8 going to conflict with people -- where the Huslia people  
9 are actually hunting, then I would say that I would have to  
10 be opposed to the competition where most of the subsistence  
11 users hunt. So that would be my position on this proposal.

12

13

14 I would like to see this proposal brought  
15 before the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group for  
16 consideration in the deliberation at that level. But I  
17 would be -- unless it could be an isolated controlled use  
18 area where it has its own -- people are compelled to go  
19 hunt there, I can't support it being included in the  
20 Koyukuk controlled use area.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Did you  
23 have something, Ray?

24

25 MR. COLLINS: Well, I guess the question  
26 would be if you treat it as an area in itself and there is  
27 a harvestable surplus of moose, you would still create a  
28 permit situation and that might attract more non-local  
29 hunters than are there now because it's another  
30 opportunity. They couldn't get a permit down below so they  
31 get on there and they would be going to the air taxi -- no,  
32 they wouldn't go to the air taxi, they'd have to do it by  
33 boat, wouldn't they, so they wouldn't -- I don't know.  
34 Yeah, okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Further Council concerns or  
37 questions? At this time I'd like to thank you for staying  
38 here, Glenn, I realize it's getting late. Any further  
39 questions. Who made the motion to adopt?

40

41 REPORTER: Ray.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Ray made the  
44 motion, seconded by Jack to adopt the proposal.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So we're back in the same  
47 format, if there are no further questions, the Chair will  
48 ask for a question. So all those in the favor of the  
49 motion, signify by saying aye.

50

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1 (No aye votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Support for Proposal 30

8 fails.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we still have  
11 two proposals left, Proposal 24 and 27.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't that taken care of  
14 yesterday?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: No, they weren't. One's  
17 dealing with brown bear in Unit 19 and the other one is  
18 dealing with the half mile restriction along the Yukon  
19 River. So if you want we can go with Proposal 24.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 24, what page?

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, Laura's got.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hang on a second, what page  
26 is it on?

27

28 MS. JURGENSEN: Page 6.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's that?

31

32 MR. COLLINS: Five.

33

34 MS. JURGENSEN: Five.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, in light of the  
37 local concern about the fly-in hunting there, could we ask  
38 that next year that the Refuge be bringing back a report to  
39 see if there's an increase in fly-in hunting and so on so  
40 that we'll just keep on top of it to know whether there's a  
41 growing problem there. I think it would be good for us to  
42 have, as far as the report, maybe, to hear next year.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: You get that?

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think Randy  
47 may want to speak to that and then maybe the Refuge.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, public and Council will  
50 note that about 90 percent of our meetings are Koyukuk



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1 River. Randy, shortly.

2

3 MR. ROGERS: Just briefly I thought you  
4 guys would want to know that at the Koyukuk River Advisory  
5 Committee, Jack -- well, Vint, submitted on behalf of Jack,  
6 a proposal similar to this one to the State Board system.  
7 Jim Marcott is holding that one and planning to put that in  
8 the hopper for the 2002 meeting which will focus on  
9 Interior. So I think that that one, you know, could be  
10 considered jointly with the Federal proposal by the  
11 advisory committee and the working group so there's just  
12 that potential process. I just wanted you to be aware that  
13 it was filed with the State system.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, does that  
18 address Ray's request there on -- maybe I'm lost.

19

20 MR. COLLINS: Well, if the group is going  
21 to be working on it, I assume we'll be hearing back on it,  
22 you know, so we won't be just ignoring it. I just wanted  
23 to make sure that we just didn't dismiss it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there any reason not to  
26 act at this time?

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Going back to that past  
29 proposal there, I would like to see tracking of that  
30 aircraft access issue also. But I made rough calculations,  
31 if the Huslia River would be including another 900 square  
32 miles or so, there could be additional 60 some permits at a  
33 seven and a half percent rate, you know, there should be  
34 maybe 900 more moose made available to the hunt and then 60  
35 something more moose put into the permit system, I -- I  
36 just don't think that that's what we want to do. This  
37 would be very counter productive. But I do want to track  
38 that aircraft thing. I've been hearing about a lot of  
39 aircraft access into the Selawik and caribou, if they're  
40 supposed to develop an air taxi system, control system in  
41 Unit 23, which then may drive air taxis down into Unit 24,  
42 we should be right on top of what's going on with the air  
43 taxi problem.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I hope you're wrong on that  
46 one, Willie Goodwin says that we're driving up all the air  
47 taxis up to his area. What kind of action do we need on  
48 Unit 24?

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: It would be easier if we had

1 a motion on the floor for Proposal 24.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a  
4 motion and a second on Proposal 24.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt  
7 Proposal 01-24.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

10

11 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Angela and Ray.  
16 A short synopsis on this. I think we should just go ahead  
17 and pass it without hearing anything really. Go ahead,  
18 short Staff analysis.

19

20 MS. JURGENSEN: Short and sweet, this was  
21 submitted by Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and  
22 it seeks to partially align Federal regulations for brown  
23 bear in Units 19(A) and 19(B). Basically you're changing  
24 -- the regulations would change from one bear every four  
25 years to one bear every year in the remainder of 19(A) and  
26 19(B). And with this change it would make the Federal  
27 restrictions actually less restrictive than the State for  
28 the remainder. And the population appears able to  
29 withstand this harvest as harvest in this area is low and  
30 it would also help with defense of life and property or DLP  
31 kills as increasing numbers of bears and other predators as  
32 you've all said.

33

34 So my recommendation is to support the  
35 proposal. And justification is, the recommended way below  
36 harvest and that the numbers can sustain it and it would  
37 partially line up the Federal regulations with the State  
38 regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you. We don't  
41 care about the population, this is one way that we can  
42 actually pursue predator control.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: State.

47

48 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department's  
49 comments are on Page 13 of your book. We support adoption  
50 of this proposal. We do have some concern that we would

1 like to see some good harvesting reporting. We think  
2 that's going to be important because there is potential in  
3 some parts of these subunits to have more of an impact on  
4 the brown bear population than we would like. So we'd like  
5 to see some assurances of good harvest reporting if this  
6 proposal is adopted.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Isn't the more regulated by  
9 the State than Feds, Terry?

10

11 MR. HAYNES: Well, this is a Federal  
12 proposal here, that would -- I mean ideally, you know, we  
13 have regulations that are consistent and we can have a  
14 single harvest reporting system, you know, either the  
15 sealing or some other mechanism. But we'd just like to --  
16 because Federal lands are involved here, we'd like to have  
17 assurances that there would be some Federal harvest  
18 reporting.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. That  
21 clarifies my question. Public comments. Did you have  
22 anything written, Vince?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Written public comments.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: There were no written public  
29 comments on this proposal. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you. Do we have  
32 any testimony on this proposal? If I understand this  
33 right, we're just realigning in making our harvest in line  
34 with the State, right? Jack.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I would suggest  
37 that the State of Alaska has liberalized these seasons  
38 there and they must have some type of reporting system,  
39 whether it's a harvest report or registration or whatever,  
40 that that be implemented for this under the Federal lands  
41 also.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further  
44 discussion on Proposal 24? If not, all those in favor of  
45 supporting Proposal 24, signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

50

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next proposal.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the next  
6 proposal is Proposal 27, it's in your book on Page 20.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Chair will entertain a  
9 motion to adopt Proposal 27 -- there's actually a lot more  
10 proposals than I thought.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: I make a motion to adopt.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

15

16 MR. DEACON: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry Deacon.  
19 Staff analysis.

20

21 MS. JURGENSEN: It's me again, Laura  
22 Jurgensen. Proposal 27 submitted by the Western Interior  
23 Regional Council on behalf of member Micki Stickman seeks  
24 to remove the one-half mile winter moose hunt restrictive  
25 buffer zone in Unit 21(D). This buffer zone is on the main  
26 stem of the Yukon River and this change should be made to  
27 allow local hunters additional opportunity to harvest moose  
28 during the winter season, especially hunters who find it  
29 difficult to travel one-half mile off the mainstem of the  
30 Yukon.

31

32 State of Alaska and Federal regulations  
33 currently have this one mile [sic] restrictive buffer zone  
34 off the main stem. This was originally aimed at protecting  
35 cows and it was also suggested by some local residents as a  
36 traditional method of preserving the total moose population  
37 and saving the easily accessible moose for times of  
38 emergency or starvation times. Use of the Yukon River as a  
39 highway to travel between the Middle Yukon River gives the  
40 hunter the opportunity to harvest the animal who has  
41 presented himself to the hunter and to not harvest such a  
42 gift is against the Koyukon Athabascan spiritual and  
43 ethological beliefs. Especially when you factor in the  
44 past fish failures and few economic opportunities in the  
45 villages.

46

47 The extent of Federal public lands in this  
48 area is approximately 51 percent with the conservation  
49 units primarily being the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge  
50 and a part of the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge.

1 Federal jurisdiction represents one-third of the total  
2 river edge miles in Unit 21(D) and private or State owned  
3 lands constitute the majority. This half-mile zone is  
4 intended to limit access and thereby preserve moose  
5 numbers.

6

7 And since Micki's not here, on Page 28 or  
8 29, 30, he basically stated and I've talked to him about  
9 this, that he feels that it's onerous or an undue burden on  
10 the local people. It doesn't make any sense to have to go  
11 a half a mile off the river and people in cities don't have  
12 to go half a mile to go to Safeway or Freds or Marketplace  
13 to go and get their beef because they're going to shoot it  
14 irregardless of whether they see it. So basically this  
15 would be authorizing what is currently the practice.

16

17 As far as the biological and population  
18 status, Refuge biologists suggest that the population is  
19 stabilized and that this could -- by deleting this type of  
20 buffer zone would not impact the moose numbers. And again,  
21 looking at the trend count surveys from that area for  
22 Kaiyuk Slough and Squirrel Creek, that backs it up. Again,  
23 there's high harvest history for this area but it doesn't  
24 appear that people in the villages are increasing their  
25 days spent in the field so, again, this would not increase --  
26 it's not expected to increase -- more moose take. And  
27 again, it should be noted for the record that this type of  
28 opportunistic hunting is a customary and traditional  
29 pattern and can be likened to supporting this proposals  
30 passage for unfettered chase and access.

31

32 In addition funeral and other traditional  
33 potlatches are often held in the winter months or the  
34 family of the deceased is preparing for a spring ceremony  
35 and moose head soup is a Koyukon delicacy any time of the  
36 year but especially desirable for important events such as  
37 potlatches as you know.

38

39 So if passed, the effect of this proposal  
40 would be to authorize, again, by written regulation, what  
41 is the practice and also taking into consideration what the  
42 local people are telling us. And again, the half-mile  
43 buffer zone is unmarked and it places an undue burden on  
44 qualified Federal subsistence users to have to determine  
45 when they've gone half a mile off the river. So my  
46 preliminary recommendation is to definitely support this  
47 proposal.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Laura. Terry  
2 Haynes, Department.

3  
4 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department's  
5 comments are on Page 33. We don't support this proposal at  
6 this time. If you look at a map of Unit 21(D) you'll see  
7 that there is very little Federal land that adjoins the  
8 Yukon River and so inconsistency between State and Federal  
9 regulations could cause a lot of confusion for hunters and  
10 the real opportunities would be on a very limited amount of  
11 land in the area. We would recommend that action be  
12 deferred on this proposal until next year at which time it  
13 could be taken up by the Board of Game as well as the  
14 Federal Board and hopefully those changes be adopted in  
15 synch. We have no opposition to the Board of Game looking  
16 at this proposal next year, we just don't want to see the  
17 Federal and State regulations out of synch in this area.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: But don't we already have a  
22 State regulation authorizing the 10 day hunt at this time  
23 in this area?

24  
25 MR. HAYNES: But there's still a half-mile  
26 or mile area of protection around the Yukon River.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further  
29 questions? Benedict. I'm getting off course again, but go  
30 ahead, Benedict.

31  
32 MR. JONES: Yeah, I don't think I'd support  
33 this proposal. There's no Federal lands on -- within the  
34 half-mile in the Koyukuk controlled use area on 21 --  
35 remainder of 21(D). So I'd say leave it as it is.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did I miss anybody, do we  
38 have public comments or anything?

39  
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, no cards were  
41 turned in but there may be some here who would like to  
42 testify. I don't see any hands going up.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, Jack.

45  
46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I've been on this  
47 Council awhile and I remember where this line came from,  
48 Sidney Huntington testified in Galena two or three times  
49 about the reason for this restriction and it was because it  
50 was his heartfelt opinion that the cows and the calves

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1 moved right up to the river in deep snow years and he  
2 wanted to protect the mothers and the babies and that's why  
3 he -- that's where this proposal came from, he used to be  
4 on the Game Board. So that was his line of thinking with  
5 this restriction, this half-mile restriction.

6

7 That restriction was made when moose were  
8 probably at a lot lower numbers than now. But the numbers  
9 have fallen off but they're still pretty high compared to  
10 historically. But that's where this regulation came from.

11

12 I do have -- you know, if there is very  
13 little Federal land coming up to the river, I don't see how  
14 this will benefit subsistence users so I can't support this  
15 proposal at this time. I would support it, definitely, if  
16 the State of Alaska amends the half-mile corridor.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Any  
19 further comments? Discussion. I really want to pass it  
20 but our people being what they are, I think they will  
21 harvest where they can harvest and if they are in need they  
22 will -- I think that -- but I still want to support it but  
23 I'm just wavering at this time. Any further discussion?  
24 Benedict stated firmly why he is against this proposal.  
25 And Jack. Any further discussion? I know where we're  
26 going with this but I think I'll just have to vote this  
27 down because Benedict asked to vote it down and this is his  
28 country.

29

30 So all those in favor of the motion signify  
31 by saying aye.

32

33 (No aye votes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. No more  
40 proposals, right?

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, might we put in  
43 the record that we suggest the proposer resubmit next year  
44 when the State will also be open and that we encourage the  
45 local Fish and Game Advisory Committee to submit a similar  
46 proposal so that action -- that way there wouldn't be any  
47 confusion about lands. If it gets adopted by the State,  
48 the Federal Subsistence Board meets after the State, I  
49 think, so then it could be acted on next year. But I would  
50 like that written down, maybe, that would encourage them

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1 locally to resubmit.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you for that.

4 It's going to go in the record saying that we did the  
5 opposite way on some other proposals, so I guess we'll  
6 never have consistency but we are trying to do the right  
7 thing. Any more proposals? Terry.

8

9 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, we support what  
10 Ray is saying. We would welcome a proposal like this one  
11 going to the Board of Game for its meeting next spring.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can the Western Interior  
14 just submit it on behalf of these proponents?

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chair, you can do  
17 that. I just need to know the cycle due date on that and  
18 we can, you know, file it until the due date, if you'd  
19 like.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll move on  
24 behalf of our -- what clientele, we submit that proposal to  
25 the State next year as well as have it brought back to us  
26 for our consideration in the spring.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion and seconded, any  
31 further discussion? If not, all those in favor of the  
32 motion, signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Where are  
41 we on the agenda?

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, during a lot of  
44 the deliberations I've been talking to various staff and  
45 one that we need to address right away which might be  
46 timely now is to have an open discussion on the Koyukuk  
47 River Moose Management plan since it's going to be before  
48 the Federal Board. Then the next item would be to talk  
49 about the Dalton Highway Corridor issue which would be on  
50 the back page of your agenda and then we would just go



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1 through the agenda as it's written. So maybe now would be  
2 a good time to bring up the plan and where you guys stand  
3 on it because the Federal Subsistence Board is going to be  
4 looking at Staff to share what the Council feels on this,  
5 as well as your Chair -- your representative at that  
6 meeting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time the Chair will  
9 entertain a motion supporting the Koyukuk River Moose  
10 Working Group plan, the five year plan.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: I move to support the Koyukuk  
13 River Moose Management plan for discussion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

16

17 MR. JONES: I second the motion.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict Jones.  
20 Discussion. I know there were a few reservations  
21 discussed, so discussion. What we're trying to do here is  
22 submit it to the Federal Subsistence Board and integrate it  
23 into our program. Discussion.

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

28

29 MR. REAKOFF: As I stated earlier I am in  
30 support of this plan. I was very pleased with the planning  
31 process and felt that it was very productive to address  
32 many of the issues. There are still issues in the plan,  
33 some fine-tuning issues, and especially in the northern  
34 part of Unit 24, there's need for regulatory changes in the  
35 northern portion of the Dalton Highway Corridor under moose  
36 harvest and the accesses that come from the Dalton Highway  
37 Corridor. And I also have reservations about the numbers  
38 of permits that are being issued this year -- which are  
39 issued. But as a whole the plan is a good product and I  
40 support endorsement of this plan to the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you want your  
44 reservations recorded some place or just on the record or  
45 on the minutes?

46

47 MR. REAKOFF: I would like those concerns  
48 conveyed to the Federal Subsistence Board, you know, that  
49 they're part of the fine-tuning, but that generally the  
50 plan is a worthwhile product and the planning process

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1 provides for the fine-tuning. So I'm not -- that's why I'm  
2 not opposed to the plan.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Further  
5 discussion. I think I'm as the same mind as Jack, as we  
6 both sat in on this planning process, without votes, and we  
7 had to interject to make ourselves heard at times but we  
8 were heard. I think that in hindsight, that this is a one  
9 time thing because -- for this year and a number of permits  
10 for this year, is that, we just wanted to see the plan go  
11 through a little further on its own. And my long-term plan  
12 is that if moose do get down as drastically as people say  
13 they are getting down there, I will institute all possible  
14 action out of the Federal system to stop a lot of this  
15 moose hunting. But then like Orville so ably stated, that  
16 this is the only thing we got right now and it seems to be  
17 working. It's just that there might be a little glitch by  
18 the number of permits issued this year. But then I would  
19 go along with Jack in forwarding this five year plan and  
20 try to get it integrated into the Federal system.

21

22 Any further discussion? Pollack Simon.  
23 Just for the public's information, we had four people from  
24 the Western Interior always involved in the formation of  
25 this plan and taking part of this plan and that's why I'd  
26 like to commend Micki for supporting the plan because we  
27 put in too much time and effort in developing this plan, so  
28 now let's go forward with this plan and another member that  
29 took part in this planning process is Pollack Simon.  
30 Pollack, you have any words?

31

32 MR. SIMON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have to  
33 ask you what proposal you're on so I'll be sure -- I mean  
34 what item of business were you discussing?

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: We're just wondering how you  
37 stand on that -- whether you still support the Koyukuk  
38 River five year plan because you are a member.

39

40 MR. SIMON: I support the plan. I think  
41 it's not perfect but it will work. The plan did reduce  
42 hunting in the Koyukuk controlled use area so I guess it  
43 could work. I support it.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you, Pollack.  
46 Just stay close, we're going into the Dalton Highway  
47 Corridor next, so stick around

48

49 MR. SIMON: Yeah, okay, thanks.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a motion on the  
2 floor of forwarding the Koyukuk River Moose Management plan  
3 2000/20005 to the Federal Subsistence Board, any more  
4 discussion? If not, all those in favor of forwarding in  
5 support of this Koyukuk River Moose Management plan to the  
6 Federal Subsistence Board signify by saying aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

11  
12 (No opposing votes)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Ray.

15  
16 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have  
17 one comment that the working group might -- I don't know if  
18 they're the appropriate channel, but it's been identified  
19 that the reason for the decline is in the predation area  
20 and I hope that the Federal agencies and the State agencies  
21 involved will be looking at that and try to stay on top of  
22 it because even if the plan's working if the numbers start  
23 falling and we're not getting the calf recruitment there,  
24 we're going to have problems every year, so I don't think  
25 we should just leave it there. I think we need to try to  
26 figure out how to address that, so I hope that group maybe  
27 can talk about that or someone appropriately take it up.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. Yes, we do  
30 not want another McGrath.

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: How do we go about this, do  
35 you want to just go on record that we do follow-up on the  
36 predator control on this area, is that about it?

37  
38 MR. COLLINS: Yes. I think the Federal  
39 agencies could, at least, be doing counts and so on and try  
40 to get data to bring before us of what the level of  
41 predation is. I don't know if there's mortality studies  
42 that would be appropriate in the area, calf mortality, but  
43 if something has to be done, based on experience in  
44 McGrath, you've got to have the science first or you're not  
45 going to go anywhere. So I think it's important that some  
46 of that science be done. And I think the Federal agencies,  
47 even though they may not -- it may be difficult for them to  
48 get into control, would still want the science done to know  
49 what's happening to those populations exactly.

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. So the next  
2 item on the agenda is the Dalton Highway?

3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And I  
5 think that is going to be a joint effort here, so they'll  
6 be coming up to the table. This is also part of your  
7 annual report so I'm going to be looking at Jack to see  
8 what we need to do with the annual report on this topic.  
9 So anyways, my understanding is Tim Krieg will be  
10 presenting on this along with maybe Taylor.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: So who is starting this  
13 discussion?

14  
15 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, the  
16 substantive report will be by Tim Krieg, I was only going  
17 to take a moment to introduce some folks. I'd like to  
18 start by saying that the Dalton Highway is clearly an area  
19 in which the BLM has some major responsibilities, both for  
20 the resources and for protection of the subsistence uses.  
21 And as you had asked of Tim, some information in your  
22 previous meeting, he's prepared a report and we'll walk  
23 through several items with you in a moment's time.

24  
25 But I'd also like to note that the State  
26 director, Fran Cherry, who serves as the Board member for  
27 the BLM has started some discussions within the BLM about  
28 strengthening the BLM efforts in the subsistence area and I  
29 think part of that shows in the fact that we've got some  
30 folks here today to learn the workings of the Regional  
31 Council program. So Bob Schnieder, who is the field office  
32 manager for the northern field office is here, Bob, if you  
33 could stand up so folks will become familiar with you. And  
34 then Susan Will, who is the associate field office manager  
35 is also with Bob and she'll become a familiar face to you  
36 over the months to come as well.

37  
38 Tim's actually done the hard work here and  
39 he'll be presenting his information at this point. Thank  
40 you, very much.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Taylor. Thank  
43 you, Tim for waiting all this time. I know we could have  
44 brought this up earlier but go ahead and let's go for it.

45  
46 MR. KRIEG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
47 Council members, again, my name is Tim Krieg. I work for  
48 the BLM in the northern field office as a wildlife  
49 biologist. And my principal area of responsibility is the  
50 Dalton Highway Management Unit. And although my comments

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1 will be brief there are several things, either directly or  
2 indirectly related to subsistence resources which have  
3 occurred on BLM lands this year that will probably interest  
4 you.

5  
6 This first overhead that I put up here is  
7 the results of a pretty quick survey that I did in February  
8 2000, just a little over a year ago. In the middle fork of  
9 the Koyukuk River, when the basin itself received a really  
10 heavy snowfall and Jack Reakoff pointed out to me at a  
11 meeting that that snowfall had forced moose into kind of  
12 critical habitats in the basin so I scraped together some  
13 funds and borrowed an airplane from Fish and Wildlife  
14 Service and I did a quick flight up there. And this maybe  
15 go into some information that we're going to be talking  
16 about later so if you'd bear with me.

17  
18 I began about Twelvemile Mountain and ran  
19 to Chandalar Shelf and then back down to Bonanza Creek and  
20 recorded locations where I saw, not moose, I didn't have  
21 the time or the right aircraft for that but moose tracks  
22 and I tried to classify them as to whether there were few,  
23 many or whether the ground was carpeted with them. And I  
24 realize these are subjective evaluations but I was able to  
25 determine the relative value of different locations in the  
26 Middle Fork as critical habitat for moose. And I'd like to  
27 point out to you that these lines -- let me just stand up  
28 for a moment. The yellow lines were places that I  
29 subjectively found many moose tracks and then the green  
30 lines are where the ground was covered -- carpeted. And I  
31 think about this same.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Excuse me, can you wait  
34 until we get a mike up there, Tim. Tina, can you hear him  
35 with that one attachment there?

36  
37 REPORTER: Yes.

38  
39 MR. KRIEG: Okay, can you hear me there  
40 then?

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

43  
44 MR. KRIEG: Okay. I just wanted to point  
45 out that the upper Koyukuk and the Dietrich Rivers turned  
46 out to be really pretty critical moose habitat in that  
47 winter when we had the low snow. And then Jack and I made  
48 the trip up there this year at almost the same time and  
49 found that in this low snow year, not surprisingly, moose  
50 were not found in that area in those concentrations.

1                   And I guess my point there would be that  
2 under the environmental stress of deep snow, moose, at  
3 least in that Koyukuk Basin, in that area of Unit 24 can  
4 move apparently some distance to seek more amenable  
5 habitats.

6  
7                   Again, at the behest of the Council, if  
8 you'll remember last year at Nulato you urged the BLM to  
9 get involved in any of the moose censuses, trend counts  
10 that the Fish and Game was participating in or planning and  
11 so I did that. And in November and December I participated  
12 in a moose trend count in areas that are in or near BLM  
13 administered lands in the Upper Koyukuk Basin. This work  
14 was in conjunction with Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge and  
15 again, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I believe that  
16 Lisa will report on the results of this survey effort where  
17 it occurred on the units that the Fish and Wildlife Service  
18 administers.

19  
20                   This overhead shows the locations of the  
21 units I counted in the Middle Fork Koyukuk River and the  
22 actual raw numbers of moose I observed per unit. And I  
23 just wanted to point out, again, I've got to stand up,  
24 where this was in the world, these units are the ones that  
25 Glenn Stout described today, this technique, there are  
26 approximately I think about 5.2 square miles or so  
27 depending on the unit, in size, and any of them with a red  
28 number are the ones that we actually surveyed in the Upper  
29 Middle Fork, so you can see they began down here around  
30 Twelvemile Mountain and they were contiguous clear up to  
31 somewhere above Marion Creek, up in there. Up into here.  
32 And there was quite a variety of occupancy of those  
33 habitats by moose, which is not too surprisingly.

34  
35                   And then my last overhead, you have a hard  
36 copy of this, I passed it out at lunch and it's the  
37 rendered data from those trend count areas. And probably --  
38 I'll just point out a few things you might be interested  
39 in. The density -- I don't think my overhead and the  
40 projector are not coordinated here, but if you look at the  
41 bottom row of values here, it's for the Middle Fork. The  
42 upper two are Henshaw and Kanuti Canyon, which Lisa will  
43 talk about and I just put them there for a comparison. But  
44 you can see then, the Upper Middle Fork, the density of  
45 adults per square mile was about .58 moose, for example,  
46 calves per 100 cows was about 43 calves per 100 cows.  
47 Bulls, 13 bulls per 100 cows, and so on.

48  
49                   I would like to point out that the first  
50 overhead showed obviously that moose can be moving in and

1 out, there's a flux with environmental parameters and other  
2 parameters we may not even know about affecting moose  
3 densities in that valley. So this is just, of course, one  
4 year of data. But our intention is to conduct this survey  
5 three years in a row and this is the first year -- the  
6 first time, I think it's been done, and so at the end of  
7 three years we should have a better picture of how the  
8 moose population in that valley is faring. And also in  
9 these other trend count areas that are nearby but not  
10 contiguous with those units out on the Kanuti.

11  
12 Lastly, I would point out to you that at  
13 the bottom of this overhead, is a chart that has the  
14 results of the 1999 hunter harvest reports for State hunts.  
15 The 2000 data is not available. And again, Glenn Stout ran  
16 a computer sort in Unit 24 asking for only those  
17 submissions where someone accessed their hunting area by  
18 vehicle, would be kicked out. And the idea was there,  
19 well, the Dalton Highway is the only highway, really, in  
20 24, and if you came in on vehicle then you probably hunted  
21 off the Dalton Highway. It's kind of a convoluted way of  
22 trying to get at some information that's hard to get at.  
23 It's the only information that we have. And I think if you  
24 look up here you'll see some interesting things. Six of  
25 the people that hunted there were residents of the Koyukuk  
26 Basin, 63 were other Alaskan residents. Twenty were non-  
27 residents, non-resident of the state of Alaska. Moving  
28 over to the right, under success, you'll see that 34 people  
29 were successful and then further over you can see the size  
30 of the moose that were taken and whether they used  
31 commercial services or not and then lastly, the method, 19  
32 of the people that responded to that column, now, not  
33 everybody responds to every column and so you don't get a  
34 complete picture so it's pretty sketchy data, but 19 were  
35 firearm hunters and 15 hunted with a bow and arrow.

36  
37 The only other aspect of this request that  
38 the Council had that I tried to get a hold of was that you  
39 asked for moose, bear population status report and that is  
40 the extent of the moose population report. And I think, at  
41 least, of the most recent hunter harvest data that we have  
42 on the State side and the only other thing that we have for  
43 bears is the Fish and Game management report and it's old  
44 data. It's based on research that was done, I think on the  
45 north side of the Brooks Range mainly and the estimate was  
46 about 33 bears per thousand square miles on the north side  
47 of the Brooks Range. And the south side, 22 to 33 bears  
48 per thousand square miles. And there's no information, I  
49 don't think there's any information on black bears. So  
50 that's the sum total of the information that is on bear

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1 densities in the Dalton Highway.

2

3 I'd like to make one other point and that  
4 is that, again, the Dalton Highway, of course, is a man  
5 made legislative appointed geographic area so it cuts  
6 across all these basins and rivering systems and so it's  
7 pretty hard to view it as just -- in a wildlife sense, as a  
8 management unit. But that pretty well concludes the  
9 information I was able to dig up for the Council on these  
10 questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, what kind of action  
13 were we looking for?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: This was -- BLM was  
16 responding to the request from the Council to have  
17 information on the Corridor and part of it's in your annual  
18 report that further attention be addressed to that. So  
19 there's no -- action is up to you to determine but there  
20 was no programmed in action at this time for it. It was  
21 just an update, but I think Jack would like to talk further  
22 on it.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. Jack.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Well, thanks for trying to  
27 find these numbers, I can see that they're real hard to  
28 find as far as harvest data. But at the lunch break I went  
29 over these numbers with Tim and there's some problems with  
30 these numbers that I pointed out. It's that these numbers  
31 of hunters that are reporting hunting there, that's awfully  
32 low compared to what we see there. And the reasons that  
33 that would be is that they don't -- they may hunt there and  
34 then go somewhere else to hunt and then kill a moose  
35 someplace else, so that doesn't really reflect the numbers  
36 of hunters that are actually hunting there. It doesn't  
37 also reflect the harvest. If they shoot a moose with a bow  
38 and wound it and then they don't kill it, they don't have  
39 to report that they've wounded a moose, they may go  
40 somewhere else and hunt again someplace else. It's very  
41 apparent that these numbers are slightly screwed up because  
42 only six of the moose were killed people in Wiseman who --  
43 or that area that use firearms and -- but it's showing that  
44 19 of the hunters are firearm hunters, well, how can that  
45 be, are they reporting illegal harvest or are they  
46 accessing areas with boats or something. So there are some  
47 real big questions on this data.

48

49 The trend count that was done this year, I  
50 trap right on top of those trend areas and the moose had



1 been below the mountains in an aggregated -- because of the  
2 late spring condition and had stayed just below the  
3 mountains and we were just moving up into the area and the  
4 survey was done right on top of a large aggregate of moose  
5 that was disseminating its way up the river, which Tim and  
6 I, a couple weeks ago seen had disseminated all the way up  
7 to the Lower Dietrich River, probably another 30 miles  
8 above your survey area. What my perception is of the hunt  
9 there, that there are lots of hunters that hunt there,  
10 whether they report. They hunt moose on the way going to  
11 the North Slope and they will hunt moose back -- going up  
12 and going back, they may not report that they're hunting  
13 moose there but that's what they're doing. They may kill a  
14 caribou on the North Slope but unless they kill a moose,  
15 actually harvest the moose, take it home with them, they  
16 don't report. They may wound a moose on the way home or  
17 going up, but they don't report. So there's some glitches  
18 in this data.

19  
20 So I caution this .8 moose per square mile,  
21 that's -- I have trend surveys from the '80s almost in that  
22 same area and it was .4, the normal trend counts in that  
23 area and I've got that data here. I should have showed you  
24 that at lunch.

25  
26 But I also was slightly concerned to find  
27 that Tim's budget is so extremely low with the BLM with  
28 looking at the game populations along the Dalton Highway.  
29 There are literally thousands and thousands of tourists a  
30 year that go up the Dalton Highway and want to view  
31 wildlife and an infrastructure is always slated to be built  
32 along the highway by the agency, but I was very surprised  
33 to find that such a low budget for monitoring the animals  
34 along the highway and especially with literally thousands  
35 of hunters also. And so I was concerned at that level of  
36 funding of the biologists for, at least, assuring that  
37 these animals are being maintained at reasonable levels.  
38 It's my opinion, as a person that stays on the ground there  
39 and sees a lot of the animals, I have a high concern that  
40 the moose population is being harvested at would be maximum  
41 sustained yield. I'm very worried that as moose hunters  
42 are pressed out of other areas, they'll begin using this  
43 resource beyond its carrying capacity.

44  
45 So I wrote a resolution to -- I feel that  
46 there needs to be an archery wound loss study, this is data  
47 that we do not have and cannot be produced by the State of  
48 Alaska. The only thing that the State of Alaska has been  
49 able to produce for me is data on elk, a large game animal,  
50 it's stock hunted down in Montana and Idaho and in those

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1 surveys there was one verbal survey they did with archers  
2 in Montana, they had 104 percent loss on elk that they'd  
3 shot with bows, and in a telemetry study on elk in Idaho,  
4 they had lost 200 percent, were found mortally dead. They  
5 had retrieved only one-third of the amount of animals that  
6 they killed. So I have big concerns with the wound loss  
7 and the testing that the State does. But that's a  
8 different proposal. And what we need is we need a wound  
9 loss study done there. I think that the State of Alaska in  
10 conjunction with.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, did you take into  
13 consideration any musket use?

14

15 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, there was a  
16 proposal to do that, to have a primitive arms hunt with  
17 black powder but the Board did not approve that. The only  
18 hunting that's legal within the five miles on each side of  
19 the Dalton Highway is with bow and arrow.

20

21 So to find what the harvestable surplus is  
22 of this moose population in Unit 24.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: How long can we stay in the  
25 room?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we can stay  
28 here until about 8:00. Next door they'll have a fiddle  
29 band at about 8:00 o'clock so we would need to be pretty  
30 much out of here by 7:30 unless we have music in the  
31 background.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: It doesn't sound like we  
34 have much to dance for.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, would you continue and  
39 go into your proposal if you're done with your testimony.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Well, I'm trying to find out  
42 what the parameters of harvest are. I'm concerned about  
43 the moose population. There's heavy hunting to the west,  
44 there's air taxis immediately west over in Bettles that  
45 drop off a lot of hunters on all the lakes outside the Park  
46 and all around that area, so that's a heavily hunted zone  
47 to the west. There's very low moose populations  
48 immediately east of the Dalton Highway Corridor. The South  
49 Fork drainage and the West Fork of the Chandalar and the  
50 North Fork of the Chandalar are very poor moose drainage,

1 you can't rely on that for influx of moose into that area.

2

3                   So I'm concerned for this Dalton Highway  
4 Corridor moose population because that's what I rely on to  
5 eat. If I don't get a moose -- one year I didn't get a  
6 moose, I had to eat lynx meat and beaver meat and some  
7 sheep meat and I got real tired of lynx meat so I haven't  
8 eaten one since. And we can't rely on caribou. We're in  
9 the Central Brooks Range and caribou sporadically move into  
10 that area, so moose for the people that live in the village  
11 that I do and myself rely heavily on moose and always have.  
12 Moose have been there -- when the first -- I had a very old  
13 lady that told me that she walked into that country from  
14 the Kobuk and her dad killed a moose there in 1900. When  
15 there were no moose in the Interior of Alaska, there was a  
16 few moose in the mountains, in the Brooks Range, and people  
17 have relied on moose for all those years. It's a very  
18 customary animal for subsistence.

19

20                   So we need to know what the parameters of  
21 harvest on this moose population. We need to know how far  
22 these moose move around. So I'm proposing that the Federal  
23 government in conjunction with the BLM, the subsistence  
24 management program, the National Park Service and the State  
25 of Alaska come up with a partnership to do a telemetry  
26 study on the moose in that area. To build data on where  
27 the moose move to and what kind of mortalities that bow  
28 hunters induce on this moose population. So I'm going to --  
29 oh, our Chairman left -- who's vice?

30

31                   MR. COLLINS: Go ahead, Jack, I'll take  
32 over.

33

34                   MR. REAKOFF: I would like to read this  
35 resolution from the Western Interior Regional Council  
36 requesting a telemetry study. So it goes, whereas, there  
37 has been increasing numbers of archery hunters in the  
38 Dalton Highway Corridor, other hunters accessing the area,  
39 via a licensed highway vehicle and then just outside the  
40 Corridor with river boats using firearms; whereas there is  
41 data lacking for the amount of wound loss mortality of  
42 moose hit with arrows, the limited data available is for  
43 elk in Montana and Idaho which shows high mortalities;  
44 whereas there's been no data gathered on moose home ranges  
45 or movements in the Central Brooks Range; be it resolved;  
46 that the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council  
47 requests that the Federal Subsistence Management Office  
48 seek partnerships for a moose telemetry study to document  
49 moose movements and wound loss statistics for the Dalton  
50 Highway area. Partnerships should be sought with the BLM

1 and National Park Service and the State of Alaska. It is  
2 the opinion of the local residents that the sport harvest  
3 is at or exceeding sustained yield.

4  
5 And I submit that as a.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that a motion?

8  
9 MR. REAKOFF: That's as a motion, yeah.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

12 MR. DEACON: I second it.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Henry Deacon.  
15 Okay, if I understand there is a motion to adopt a  
16 resolution introduced by Jack Reakoff, did you have  
17 something Benedict.

18  
19 MR. JONES: I have a question for Tim.  
20 Tim, is there any traffic mortality on the wildlife on the  
21 Dalton Highway Corridor?

22  
23 MR. KRIEG: Yes, there is. As far as I  
24 know there's -- there's no data. I have not seen any data  
25 produced on that, on the amount. Jack and I were talking  
26 about it at lunch, neither one of us know if DOT keeps  
27 records of that. We'll have to do some investigation to  
28 see if anyone is keeping records of that.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion or  
31 questions for Tim? This motion to adopt this resolution  
32 was seconded by Henry Deacon and I would like to thank Jack  
33 for targeting this area. We've been putting this area off  
34 for the last two or three years because of our  
35 concentration on our concerns of the Lower Koyukuk. So at  
36 this time the Chair will call the question. So all those  
37 in favor of the motion passing this resolution, signify by  
38 saying aye.

39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

43  
44 (No opposing votes)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Did we have  
47 anything else on the Dalton Highway?

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: No, not until we bring up the  
50 annual report and Jack will weave that into the annual

00125

1 report.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can we do it now and just  
4 make a motion that this be incorporated into the annual  
5 report?

6

7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, I make a motion  
8 that this resolution be included with the annual report. I  
9 also would like to request that the BLM up the funding for  
10 the biology management with Dalton Highway Corridor. It  
11 would seem that there's very low funding being expended on  
12 the very important resources along that highway, not only  
13 to the subsistence hunters but also to the viewers of that  
14 area.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we really want to bring  
17 in viewers into our subsistence.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, was that taken,  
22 recorded, that -- do we need a motion or some direction or  
23 letter to ask for more funding for Tim Krieg's office?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: You can do that. You did  
26 that with law enforcement on the Dalton Highway Corridor  
27 and I think you got a favorable action on that. We never  
28 got a written response, but, Jack, if you remember that,  
29 you requested increased law enforcement flying time and I  
30 believe you said the next year it was increased. So, yes,  
31 you have, in the past submitted letters requesting funding.  
32 I'm just saying you never got an official response to it  
33 but budgetary increases did happen.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: So then Western Interior  
36 will go on record requesting a letter to address this  
37 issue, more finances for Tim Krieg's office. Did we have  
38 anything else on this?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, not on  
41 this.

42

43 MR. KRIEG: Mr. Chairman, if you would  
44 allow me another two minutes I'd tell you two more things  
45 about the Dalton Highway that would constitute our agency's  
46 report and I'd unload my complete wagon, if that would be  
47 all right?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: If that constitutes your  
50 agency reports, you got more than two minutes, two and a

00126

1 half minutes.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. KRIEG: Again, you have a hard copy of  
6 this and I just wanted to let you know that last fall BLM  
7 participated again with Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
8 in a herd comp count in the Ray Mountains. At the time we  
9 still had 15 functioning radios in that herd, they're due  
10 to expire -- they may be all clicked off by now but at  
11 least in the last year that they were still active we got  
12 in there and did a herd comp count. We found 14 of the  
13 collars within about 20 miles of each other in the Tozitna  
14 drainage scattered among eight groups. We found another  
15 group that didn't have a collar in it and the bottom line  
16 here is we counted about 1,730 animals in these nine  
17 groups. That was an increase over the last count. I think  
18 it was in 1996 when about 1,400 were counted.  
19 Incidentally, there were about 19 calves per 100 cows and  
20 the other interesting part to that that I thought was  
21 interesting was that the 15 radio collars had been on for  
22 five years and there had been no mortalities after the  
23 first year.

24

25 Again, we hope to continue to do this work  
26 annually if the funds are available.

27

28 You have one more little -- on the back  
29 side of one of those handouts that I gave you, you also  
30 have some information on visitation on the Dalton Highway  
31 that I thought you might find interesting. This first one  
32 you don't have but it shows the visitor use at the Coldfoot  
33 Visitor Center and I'm sure the Council is aware that we're  
34 in the planning stages of building a new visitor center  
35 there. It shows kind of a static visitation here from '97  
36 through 2000 but through -- if you look at the paper  
37 handout that I gave you, you'll notice that the visitation  
38 at the Yukon crossing is still -- it's still going up.  
39 Related to these trends, BLM plans to replace several  
40 outhouses this summer at existing facilities south of  
41 Atigun Pass and although it's out of the area that you're  
42 concerned with, I thought you might like to know that we're  
43 planning to wait sides in the Atigun Valley.

44

45 And that concludes my report. If there are  
46 any other questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just, you know, if you put up  
49 any buildings anywhere, even an outhouse you increase  
50 visitation, was that taken into consideration?

1 MR. KRIEG: I think the way I would answer  
2 that is that the data we have shows that the visitation is  
3 already happening, you know, and the chart is going this  
4 way and that in conjunction -- these wait sides are in  
5 conjunction with DOT and they're trying to provide  
6 facilities for the increased use of the Dalton Highway that  
7 is already occurring plus with the paving of the road it's  
8 anticipated that it might continue to go up.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, as soon as the paving  
11 is done it will go way up. Jack.

12  
13 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, regarding the  
14 tourism infrastructure, I would like the BLM to consult  
15 more with the local residents regarding some of this  
16 infrastructure. Last summer there was an outhouse and a  
17 wait site put in at Grayling Lake without consultation of  
18 the local people at all, and the Grayling Lake is one of  
19 the only areas in the foothills of the Brooks Range, one of  
20 maybe three or four lakes along the road where bull moose  
21 will come and eat water plans and it's a real large lake.  
22 And there will be -- there was like three or four bulls in  
23 that lake. After the construction of that outhouse it  
24 became an instant campground. I went by there, there's  
25 people throwing frisbees, yelling and screaming and they  
26 drove all the moose out of the lake. I've consulted -- if  
27 the local people would have been consulted it would have  
28 been apparent or it would have been more -- it would have  
29 been better to have that outhouse -- maybe an outhouse was  
30 warranted there, but just the configuration of the parking  
31 lot -- or the dynamics of the parking lot could have been  
32 made to where it wasn't -- didn't actually provide for RV  
33 camping and multiple use stays and all the people running  
34 around in the woods there and fishing. That basically  
35 drove all the moose out of the lake and it reduced the  
36 opportunity for viewers and also -- I went down there  
37 looking around at the beginning of moose season and there  
38 wasn't a moose in the country there. So I mean this kind  
39 of -- if there is infrastructures to be built, I would like  
40 to see consultation with local people, the Marion Creek  
41 campground was the same situation. A campground was built  
42 right in the middle of a bear trail right next to a swamp  
43 so there's lots of mosquitos and the bears were coming into  
44 camp there. It was also far north of Coldfoot, which I  
45 testified when they were making the development and all,  
46 that I would like to see all the infrastructure maintained  
47 at Coldfoot. I would rather see infrastructures clumped  
48 than just spread out and have strip development.

49  
50 So in the future, you know, for subsistence

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1 resource impacts, I would like consultation on the BLM on  
2 some of these issues. The RAMP plan, the Recreational Area  
3 Management Plan was never reviewed by the communities in  
4 the affected area.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

7  
8 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you put it in the form  
11 of a motion that the Western Interior would be involved --  
12 or informed by BLM on these decisions before they actually  
13 build?

14  
15 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, whereas the --  
16 somebody's going to have to record if I'm just going  
17 to.....

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think just a motion to  
20 have Western Interior involved.

21  
22 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. I make a motion that  
23 the Bureau of Land Management, in the future infrastructure  
24 development within the Dalton Highway Corridor, consult  
25 with the Western Interior Council on impacts to subsistence  
26 resources.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

29  
30 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion? If  
33 not, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying  
34 aye.

35  
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

39  
40 (No opposing votes)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Do we have  
43 anything else on the Dalton Highway?

44  
45 (Pause)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not, before we forget we  
48 do have the minutes of the Nulato meeting, Benedict did you  
49 ever find what you wanted to?

50



00129

1 (Pause)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Salena, the Court Recorder  
6 looked through the transcript from before and we couldn't  
7 find anything that was deferred action by this Council, I  
8 believe that's what she meant. Okay. But anyway, in the  
9 minutes, I couldn't find any deferred action from the last  
10 meeting.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, what do we have on  
13 this now?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Well, you deferred approving  
16 the minutes until I could get you the even and the odd  
17 pages before you so you have all the pages in front of you,  
18 I hope, of your minutes. So you can defer to the next  
19 meeting to approve them but it would be a lot easier to  
20 approve them now unless there is a question still by  
21 Benedict.

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd rather approve them  
23 right now and correct them later if we have to correct  
24 them, correct them to our benefit.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have to reintroduce a  
29 motion to approve?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: I don't believe there ever  
32 was a motion for the minutes because I was embarrassed to  
33 be only on the odd side of the pages.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a  
36 motion to approve the minutes of the -- what's the date?

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Nulato meeting.

39

40 MR. COLLINS: Nulato meeting.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second?

43

44 MR. JONES: Second.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: I second that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Benedict and  
49 third by Jack. Do we need a couple minutes to go through  
50 them?

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1 (Pause)

2

3 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.  
6 I think that after we put it off this morning, quite a few  
7 of us have gone through and looked it over, so all those in  
8 favor of approving the Nulato minutes, October 4, 5 Nulato  
9 minutes, signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Next item  
18 on the agenda, Vince?

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the next item  
21 on the agenda would be reports from the Chair or from the  
22 Council members so that's an elective on your part.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: That's basically a time that  
27 if there's some kind of reporting on fishing -- excuse me,  
28 local advisory committee actions or tribal actions, village  
29 council actions, et cetera, so that's up to you and then  
30 beyond that, the next would be a review of the annual  
31 report, and then we would be into agency reports.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. I think  
34 I'd like to -- I think we've more than covered VI, more  
35 than enough, we've reiterated it and restated and rehashed  
36 all the advisory committee meetings that we've had. So  
37 annual report.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the annual  
40 report is under Tab E. There were three topics that you  
41 talked about and I'm just going to slow down here because  
42 I'm going to need Jack involved in this but we'll deal with  
43 the other two topics first. The first topic is dealing  
44 with wound loss within the Dalton Highway Corridor and then  
45 the second topic was basically thanking the Staff for the  
46 guiding, outfitter, transporter operations in the region  
47 and that should continue. So that was in response, I  
48 think, to us asking did you want that to continue, this is  
49 now added in your annual report that you do want it  
50 continued. And then there was concern about growing

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1 fishery -- sportfishery activities and criminal trespass.  
2 There I tried to capture that basically you're still  
3 waiting to hear about how the Lacey Act might be utilized  
4 with criminal trespassing. And that you would like the  
5 Board to direct the Fish and Wildlife Service and the  
6 Bureau of Land Management to more closely monitor these  
7 uses instead of suggesting.

8

9 And with that, we can go topic by topic,  
10 but I did need to see if the recent action on the  
11 resolution on the Dalton Highway is incorporated within  
12 this, the first topic, wound loss within the Dalton Highway  
13 Corridor.

14

15 It's under Tab E and we're always a year  
16 behind on the annual report so this is actually the 2000  
17 annual report.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: So this hasn't been submitted  
20 yet?

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: No, it has not. The process  
23 on that is once we get concurrence or approval by the  
24 Council here, then it's submitted and then the Board  
25 generally takes them up in early summer and then they take  
26 action or respond to them and that's usually done by your  
27 fall meeting, that there's official Board response. So  
28 obviously we don't have another meeting before fall so it's  
29 easier if we can get approval by the Council at this time  
30 so we can put it into the system.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: So what we're looking at  
33 right now, it will be totally changed by the time it comes  
34 back up?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: No, I hope not. What I'm --  
37 no, the options before you on the annual report is to look  
38 at the one that's here and say this is fine and then go  
39 forward with it. The other option is is that you would  
40 agree to this in concept and then for instance if the  
41 wording on the Dalton Highway does not incorporate Jack's  
42 concern that you would empower the Chair with the  
43 representative of the area to assist with the final wording  
44 of that and then we would put that together and then submit  
45 it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we make it even  
48 simpler and just attach the resolution we passed?

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, you could. I just --

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1 Jack is a real good writer and I'm just concerned I'm not  
2 capturing what he wants in these paragraphs. So if he's  
3 satisfied with it, yes, the resolution would be attached no  
4 matter what, you've already directed that. I just don't  
5 know of these paragraphs or paragraph counter anything  
6 that's in there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Jack, your feelings.

9

10 MR. REAKOFF: No, I think that this acts as  
11 a preamble to this resolution and this wording is  
12 appropriate.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

15

16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, since this is just  
17 going out now and it's dated March 31st, I think we should  
18 add the item we discussed about the formation of this work  
19 group -- working group for the Innoko area, that that has  
20 high priority, and we should have a section encouraging  
21 that that be started right away, along similar lines to the  
22 Koyukuk one, and then incorporating the fisheries issues as  
23 well as fish and game, I guess.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, that was a  
26 good catch, I had forgotten about it. Did you have all the  
27 material you need on that to incorporate it then?

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And the way we've done  
30 it in the past is I'm going to have to write that up and  
31 then I'll share it with the Chair and if you have concerns  
32 then you can consult with your members but I understand  
33 that you wanted the GASH planning process added to this and  
34 that it be placed as a high priority and then I'll try to  
35 give, very briefly, in the annual report your long history  
36 in requesting that so that the Board is aware this is, you  
37 know, not just something that just came up. Not that  
38 there's new Board members but it just is a tracking  
39 mechanism. So I'll draft it up and get it by the Chair,  
40 and then if the Council agrees then the Chair can approve  
41 it or authorize or call up a member to see if needs to  
42 change.

43

44 MR. COLLINS: What about the issue of  
45 requesting predation studies in the Koyukuk and so on,  
46 urging agencies to consider that in their actions, to do  
47 the science on what's happening there, since it's been  
48 identified as potentially one of the real causes for the  
49 decline? I don't know, is that appropriate, I'm just  
50 asking.

1                   CHAIRMAN SAM: I think it would be more  
2 than appropriate because we did take action trying to  
3 indoctrinate the Koyukuk Moose Management five year plan  
4 into our Federal system. Is that going to be in the annual  
5 report, too, the adoption of the five year moose management  
6 plan?

7  
8                   MR. MATHEWS: No, I wasn't looking at that.  
9 I was looking that as a separate thing that would be  
10 carried forth, that you endorse the plan with those items  
11 that Jack wanted noted. I wasn't -- let me stop here a  
12 second. No, it would not be wise to have it in the annual  
13 report because the Board's going to be looking at this in  
14 May, the actions of the plan. They won't look at the  
15 annual report until June -- yeah, June, so it would be a  
16 hollow exercise to have it in the annual report, the  
17 approval of the plan.

18  
19                  MR. COLLINS: Okay.

20  
21                  MR. MATHEWS: Now, I'm not losing track  
22 that Ray is also asking for additional studies on other  
23 components of the ecosystem there. Yes, that can be put  
24 into the annual report. I was just hoping that -- and I  
25 know Randy left and I'm not singling him out it's just that  
26 I haven't closely watched that working group, if that's  
27 part of their request, too, to have looking at all  
28 populations and maybe Benedict or Jack or Ron can remember  
29 that, I don't know.

30                  (Pause)

31  
32                  MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we'll put it in the  
33 annual report that attention be addressed in the Koyukuk  
34 River on the predator populations and their impact on the  
35 moose population and the resulting impact on the  
36 subsistence use.

37  
38                  MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

39  
40                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that satisfactory, Ray?

41  
42                  MR. COLLINS: (Nods affirmatively)

43  
44                  CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that's fine.

45  
46                  MR. COLLINS: I was just thinking for the  
47 Federal budgets, they've already got their budgets for this  
48 year, they're probably not going to do it out of this  
49 year's budget so they have to be thinking of it to put it  
50 in next year, so if we put it in the report we're at least

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1 getting them to think about considering some of those kinds  
2 of studies in their next fiscal year.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: I think we can put in there  
7 on the timing -- I'm just -- I'm not trying to take up  
8 time, I just -- it's just that the Board has never -- well,  
9 I don't know, let's put it in and see if the Board responds  
10 to it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anything else on the annual  
13 report?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: So then by consensus, the  
16 report that's in front of you under Tab E with the noted  
17 additions and the editing process that we've used over the  
18 years it looks like the annual report is approved subject  
19 to those contingents.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: How many additions did you  
22 make, do you have them offhand?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: If I got it right, you only  
25 added two, GASH area, top priority and encourage studies of  
26 the other components of the moose situation on the Koyukuk.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that will take care  
29 of all of our priorities.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I assume that's done  
32 and the record should reflect it's done by consensus that  
33 we're there with the annual report approval with those  
34 contingents.

35

36 The next thing will be agency reports and,  
37 you know, due to planning and that I think we're going to  
38 have to work harder or I will have to work harder, too, to  
39 make sure these agendas incorporate as much as possible,  
40 agency reports. And I think at different times I'll have  
41 to consult with the Chair on how best to do this, but I  
42 don't think the Council wants to send a message to the  
43 agencies that they don't want to hear these reports. But  
44 what's happening here is due to all the topics that we need  
45 to cover in these meetings, doesn't allow a lot of time for  
46 agency reports.

47

48 So with that, I think you're into the  
49 agency report section of your agenda and I can help you  
50 through that which won't take too long, I think.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't make this funny  
4 because it is sad that you need to take actions on things  
5 but you don't have the time to hear the reports and I think  
6 we need to work together to improve that process.

7

8 Under agency reports, the first one is  
9 Native corporations, I won't go down the list but there may  
10 be some Native corporations that want to make a  
11 presentation at this time.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: As I look at our spectator  
14 section there, I don't see any, so skip all those.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Alaska Department of  
19 Fish and Game, again, they've had staff here throughout the  
20 time through some difficult times, I don't know if they  
21 have any reports to present at this time. I don't see any.

22

23 Bureau of Land Management, through your  
24 direction and support already covered their reports unless  
25 there's -- nope, not seeing any.

26

27 Next, is Fish and Wildlife Service. I  
28 believe there are some reports there to present. They were  
29 presented yesterday in joint session so I'll stop here to  
30 see if they have any additional reports. What I meant is  
31 they wanted to report about the white-fronted geese  
32 situation and that was covered in the joint meeting  
33 yesterday.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, could you draft a  
36 letter for me to sign just thanking the Department, they  
37 were very helpful today?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And I assume that would  
40 also mean to copy Frank Rue and -- would that include the  
41 Commissioner?

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that's who we would  
44 direct it because I was really kind of pissed off when I  
45 saw some of the funding cuts in the newspaper and I was  
46 wondering if they would be here and I was wondering if we  
47 would take any kind of action whatsoever, so I would just  
48 like a letter out thanking these people because we could  
49 have done a lot and never gotten anywhere without these  
50 people.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'll  
2 assist you with writing that and we'll incorporate that  
3 it's valuable, their input.

4  
5 Where was I, Fish and Wildlife Service?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Fish and Wildlife, yeah.

8  
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we work in a multi-  
10 faceted agency and the contaminants section is doing a  
11 study and they've been waiting here to present it but due  
12 to other scheduling conflicts they weren't able to present  
13 it. They have an excellent handout on it that will provide  
14 background information on it. I won't attempt to cover it  
15 but I know it's something you've discussed several times  
16 and maybe in the future, as this study progresses, we can  
17 invite them back so they can present the results from this  
18 contaminant study. I believe it's across the Yukon  
19 drainage.

20  
21 MR. SHERROD: There's some extras here if  
22 anyone wants to take some back to pass around the village.

23  
24 MR. MATHEWS: And he has been here, that  
25 would be Keith Mueller, several times, and our schedule and  
26 timing just didn't allow presentation, but that's a study  
27 that I think you'll be quite interested in finding out what  
28 they find out from it.

29  
30 Again, is there any other -- I don't think  
31 there's any other reports from Fish and Wildlife Service.  
32 Yes, there is, there's two of them.

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we do have Kanuti and  
34 who else do we have?

35  
36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, with the Kanuti one, I  
37 mailed you earlier, their written report and somehow or  
38 another it did not get in your book so if you do need  
39 copies of the written report on the Kanuti and as I've done  
40 at many of the meetings, the Kanuti Refuge as well as other  
41 Refuges have followed your request to have written reports  
42 here so it helps, all that they do and provide written  
43 reports.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: First off, I'd like to again  
46 apologize to Kanuti. It seems like we're always putting  
47 you last but thank you for your perseverance and you have  
48 the floor.

49  
50 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and



1 Council. Did everyone get a copy of that, that was mailed  
2 out because it's all there in front of you, you can read  
3 it, I guess, and get back to us if you have any questions,  
4 if we want to keep this short. But we do want to introduce  
5 you to our new manager, Bob Schulz, is the new manager of  
6 Kanuti Refuge and he started in mid-July.

7

8 MR. SCHULZ: Yes, just a little background.  
9 I'm the new Refuge manager for Kanuti National Wildlife  
10 Refuge. For the last 10 years I've been the deputy Refuge  
11 manager down in Tetlin. There, I was very active in  
12 overseeing the subsistence program on the Tetlin Refuge  
13 there. I've dealt with a lot of the same issues that you  
14 folks have with the Eastern Interior where we worked with  
15 C&T's for the upper Tanana Valley there. We worked with  
16 fish issues there on the whitefish populations. Also I  
17 worked with the folks down there on the user conflicts down  
18 there, basically we have about 150,000 people coming up the  
19 Alaska highway and go by the Refuge so there were a lot of  
20 conflicts between the visitation and the subsistence users  
21 and also the State regulations there.

22

23 I look forward to getting to know each one  
24 of your folks and work with you. Right now I'm relying  
25 real heavily on my staff because it's very capable and if  
26 you have any questions on this report, don't hesitate to  
27 bring them forward and we'll try to get you the best  
28 answers we can.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Questions for Kanuti?

33

34 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Is there anything  
35 specifically that you'd like us to address that's on the  
36 report? I know Greg put together, as requested last time,  
37 the harvest information, within and adjacent to the Kanuti  
38 Refuge. That's included in the handout. There's stuff on  
39 moose, including our new trend surveys. A challenge grant  
40 that we currently have in draft status. It's all in the  
41 report but if there's anything that you'd like us to  
42 address now while you have us here, let us know.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Thanks, Lisa. This Henshaw  
47 bull/cow ration is kind of skewed off and are you going  
48 to reevaluate why -- is your trend area just landing on top  
49 of a bull aggregating area or are you going to reevaluate  
50 how to get a little different composition, I mean it

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1 shouldn't be like that.

2

3 MS. SAPERSTEIN: In the past we were doing  
4 the trend surveys, between '83 and '92, the Kanuti Canyon  
5 usually had over a hundred bulls per hundred cows. So  
6 there has been a history in that general area of a high  
7 bull to cow ratio. I think part of that's due to the bulls  
8 get up in the hills and are fairly inaccessible. This is  
9 just a one -- first year that we've started doing this  
10 again. Like I said before, three to four years before we  
11 really start getting a feel for what's going on. This area  
12 is in a burn, it burned in '91. They did trend surveys  
13 fairly consistently in that area between '87 and '92 so  
14 it's going to be interesting to see what happens here as  
15 the burn progresses.

16

17 The Kanuti Canyon, on the other hand is in  
18 a 1972 burn, it's pretty productive right now. So I don't  
19 know what the answer is, maybe the bulls congregate there,  
20 the cows don't because of lack of forage, I think that's  
21 something that remains to be seen but it's certainly  
22 something we'll keep an eye on. I'm a little reluctant to  
23 make any real strong statements about this on one years  
24 worth of data. You know, you can kind of roughly compare  
25 it to previous years but the trend surveys didn't overlap  
26 directly and then that fire came along in 1991.

27

28 MR. REAKOFF: I've seen that, you know, up  
29 where I'm at, there's a creek where all the bulls -- come  
30 down to that creek there and they all aggregate in one  
31 place and the cows are up higher in the timber and just  
32 kind of hanging out with their calves and it's a post-rut  
33 kind of a deal and it may be just the visibility of those  
34 moose, you know, those bulls are more visible or something.  
35 But there's these aggregating places, so you know, it's  
36 kind of -- I don't consider -- and after winter sets on and  
37 the moose kind of really getting together and falling down  
38 on the river valleys, that ratio changes -- the  
39 perceptible ratio changes down to more realistic numbers,  
40 they're not even anything like these numbers, you know, it  
41 could be 20 bulls per hundred cows, you know. So I'm not  
42 sure how to alleviate that but I would kind of suggest to  
43 try to maybe expand the area to find more where the cows  
44 are at, because I'm sure it's a separating effect, you  
45 know.

46

47 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yeah, that's a problem  
48 with these trend areas because we can't do the censuses  
49 every year. We have to stick to smaller areas so you are  
50 going to get artifacts in the data, because it's a fairly

1 small area. The census that was done in 1999 would better  
2 reflect the bull/cow ratio, Refugewide, and I just don't  
3 have that here right now, I can get that to you. It's been  
4 in past reports.

5  
6 And again, like we were talking, I think  
7 this morning, there is definitely some movements going on  
8 in the Refuge and out of the Refuge and I'd like to address  
9 that some how at some point, either with collars or --  
10 radio collars or colored neck collars or something; I'd  
11 like to consider in the future, maybe that will help get at  
12 some of that as well.

13  
14 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, that would be very  
15 beneficial information to know how many moose are moving in  
16 and out of the Refuge, you know, because they would  
17 immediately get into fairly heavily hunted areas if they  
18 were dispersing into the State lands to the north. so that  
19 would be very beneficial information all right. Generally,  
20 I think you guys are doing a lot of good work out on the  
21 Kanuti and it looks like you're keeping your hand on the  
22 pulse of several different resources there and appreciate  
23 your work.

24  
25 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. For your  
28 information also, is that, depending on water level,  
29 Henshaw Creek is almost always inaccessible when it's  
30 falltime and low water, and that's where quite a few of  
31 those bulls probably congregate even before the rut.

32  
33 MR. REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's just almost  
36 inaccessible. Just a brief report on the outside hunters  
37 in Kanuti Wildlife Refuge.

38  
39 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. As it's  
40 mentioned in the write up, that's something at the meeting  
41 in Nulato that you requested information on the outside  
42 hunting on Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. What I did was  
43 I requested the information from the green harvest reports  
44 from Glenn Stout out of the Galena office. And on the  
45 table on the top of Page 4 that first line is the total  
46 number reported moose from the green harvest tags and then  
47 we also have the -- the second line is the number of  
48 reported harvests from -- and the Kanuti Refuge does not  
49 have an active guide on the Refuge so these reports are all  
50 from air taxi transporters. And over the years there's

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1 only been a permit for either one or two air taxi  
2 transporters on the Refuge each year. And for -- you could  
3 see in '98, '99, 2000 there wasn't any harvest and this  
4 last year there was one harvest and that was the incident  
5 that Barry had mentioned earlier today, the four moose that  
6 were harvested upstream from Kanuti Lake. And then the  
7 bottom line is the information from Dave Andersen's harvest  
8 information for the Koyukuk River communities and this is  
9 taking the totals from Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles and  
10 Evansville. And below the table it's broken down each year  
11 to show you like for '88/89 [sic] again for the State  
12 harvest reports, there were 12 harvest reports returned and  
13 then four of them were successful in '99/2000 there were 23  
14 reports returned and there were 14 successful hunters.

15  
16 Overall, to summarize it, the Refuge feels  
17 that the hunting pressure within or immediately adjacent to  
18 the Refuge is pretty limited. As I mentioned there's no  
19 permitted big game guide on Kanuti Refuge, and the majority  
20 of the Refuge lands are within the Kanuti controlled use  
21 area.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How many special use  
24 permits can you -- or do you issue to utilize the Kanuti  
25 Wildlife Refuge?

26  
27 MR. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chair, my name is Barry  
28 Whitehill. Last year there was two air taxis that were  
29 permitted. One only kind of in error, after they had  
30 dropped off a fisherman out onto the Refuge area, and in  
31 talking with them and to kind of cover for that activity we  
32 issued a permit. Primarily, there's only been one air taxi  
33 that's been operating to any degree. And I might want to  
34 add to a comment that Greg just made about currently  
35 there's no hunting guide on Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge  
36 area, there is a vacant area and we've been approached by  
37 an individual that would like to see about getting a permit  
38 to operate as a guide on the Refuge. Currently, he does  
39 not have the State authorization to be in Unit 24 and I  
40 know he has talked about getting that credential and  
41 approaching us again when he does, so that may be coming up  
42 as well.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you keep us closely  
45 informed on that and give us the name, too, please?

46  
47 MR. WHITEHILL: Yes. If he continues with  
48 that potential operation. What we will probably do at this  
49 point is only issue on a year basis for the guide activity  
50 and then at which time all the Refuge areas will be offered

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1 up again, I think it's on a five year cycle and when that  
2 is offered up again, the five years, then we will reoffer  
3 the Kanuti area to anybody that would come and we would  
4 basically judge all the perspectives and select a guide  
5 that way.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Would you keep us really  
8 closely informed on that because I know there hasn't been  
9 too much guiding activity out there but when you talk about  
10 five permits, I'd like to know who, where and why at any  
11 time?

12

13 MR. WHITEHILL: Okay, we will certainly do  
14 that.

15

16 MR. SCHULZ: Mr. Chairman, there's only  
17 going to be one guide out there, that would be issued for a  
18 five year period. There won't be five guide permits issued  
19 on the Kanuti Refuge, there will only be one permit but it  
20 will be a for a five year period.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thanks for that  
23 clarification, the number threw me for a minute. Any  
24 further questions? Jack.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Off hand, what do you think  
27 the moose harvest is on the Kanuti Refuge, with your total  
28 population, that should be what -- what kind of percentage,  
29 generally?

30

31 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I'd have to work up the  
32 numbers on that, I haven't done it but I will and get back  
33 to you.

34

35 MR. WHITEHILL: I don't know about  
36 percentage of harvest but just being out here in the field  
37 during the season and contacting hunters in the field and  
38 as well as the air taxi operation goes, you know, this has  
39 been about the most maximum harvest I've seen in my time  
40 there at Kanuti from air taxi operations for sporthunting.  
41 You know, I think the bulk of it comes off that -- just on  
42 the edge of the Refuge, up off the Southfork and maybe a  
43 little bit up Fish Creek, but other than that, it's pretty  
44 minimal from a sport harvest standpoint.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: What I'm referring to, you  
49 know, is the subsistence and the sport harvest combination  
50 to -- you know, right in that northern unit we talked about

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1 in the plan, three to five percent harvest range and that's  
2 -- I mean just to compare -- I mean just to track what that  
3 harvest -- if it's approaching that.

4

5 MR. WHITEHILL: Okay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for  
8 Kanuti? Benedict.

9

10 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd like to ask the  
11 Department, did you guys ever -- on this mortality on the  
12 moose collaring, you have only two survive out of the 12,  
13 you know, what's causing -- is there any other place in the  
14 state that you radio collar and if there are any survivors,  
15 like Fortymile area?

16

17 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yeah, I just want to  
18 stress that the mortality wasn't due to the collar and one  
19 died of old age, some were disbursed, some were being  
20 killed by other wolves. As for wolves with collars in  
21 other parts of the state, I think Fortymile still has some  
22 collared, I don't really know what's going on, you know,  
23 through the state or other Refuges. But this wasn't -- and  
24 maybe that's not clear, if that's what the question was, it  
25 wasn't mortality due to the collaring itself. The wolves  
26 were up and running, you know, for awhile. Some left the  
27 area, we just never -- never picked them up again. Like I  
28 said, one died of old age. Any that we found -- we picked  
29 up any mortalities that we found and sent them in to be  
30 necropsied with the veterinarian. And they were all -- one  
31 looked like it had been injured, I believe, kicked maybe,  
32 and then.....

33

34 MR. WHITEHILL: Mike Johnson got one and we  
35 compensated him for the hide loss for the collar too.

36

37 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Oh, yeah, someone trapped  
38 one and the collar rubs away at the fur so the ruff isn't  
39 as good and we apparently compensated the trapper for the  
40 loss of the ruff. Does that answer your question?

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

43 MR. REAKOFF: Did the Department notify you  
44 that they were releasing anymore Fortymile wolves up this  
45 way this year? I haven't heard anything more about that.  
46 Last year they were letting wolves go.

47

48 MR. SCHULZ: I think that project is  
49 overwith for the relocation on the sub-adults there. I  
50 think that was a four or five year project and I think it's

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1 come to a close where the upper -- you know, the Fortymile  
2 Caribou Management plan has gone into a harvest plan now so  
3 it's gone to like Step 2. They're still monitoring them  
4 and there was a couple packs that -- because of  
5 mortalities, natural mortalities or loss of one of the  
6 adult pair there, they went back in and captured the other  
7 one and sterilized it and put a collar on it. But I think  
8 the relocation is done with.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does that constitute the  
11 Kanuti agency report or do you have more?

12

13 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I think that's it. I'll  
14 leave some more copies with Vince. I think the copy you  
15 got at the table, the trend survey table wasn't formatted  
16 correctly and I'll leave this with him and I'll also leave  
17 you with some copies of something that Bob came up with as  
18 a way of recording local knowledge as well as anything that  
19 we come across that refers to the area in books or anywhere  
20 else that we see ourselves. It's got a map on one side  
21 and an area to record information on the other. So I'll  
22 leave that with you, Ron, if you want to bring some back  
23 home with you. We've got some out in Allakaket.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Lisa. I  
26 appreciate it. And again, I would like to commend the  
27 Kanuti staff for utilizing and visiting the people of  
28 Allakaket. I think people are well familiar with who you  
29 are and ready to coordinate and cooperate and work with you  
30 people rather than buck you people now at this stage. So  
31 again, thank you all. Thank you for your report.

32

33 MR. SCHULZ: Thank you.

34

35 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you.

36

37 MR. WHITEHILL: Thank you.

38

39 MR. McCLELLAN: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there may be  
44 some other Refuge reports but I don't know if there's any  
45 others. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any other Refuge  
48 that wants to give a report? Innoko.

49

50 MR. SHAFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if you'd

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1 like I could give you a quick synopsis of the hunter  
2 harvest report for the guide, outfitters and air taxis on  
3 Innoko, in the interest of time, it's up to you?

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead. Thank you  
6 for staying behind until now, too.

7

8 MR. SHAFF: This year we had 105 hunters  
9 were brought in by seven transporters, of which five were  
10 air and two were boat. We had three guide outfitters  
11 working the Refuge, however only one of them actually  
12 brought clients in this year. So that's a total of 105  
13 hunters. There was 38 moose taken, two wolves and one  
14 black bear taken. The bulk of the moose were taken from  
15 the main stem of the Innoko River. There was four moose  
16 taken from the Dishna and several -- about eight taken from  
17 the Iditarod and then the remaining were taken from some of  
18 the small creeks mainly flowing into the Innoko.

19

20 Real quick, that's what was taken this  
21 year. I've estimated, there was another 40 or so hunters  
22 that we checked that came in, that were not brought in by  
23 guides, outfitters or air taxis, they either flew in by  
24 private airplane or boated in by private boat from down  
25 river, I'm estimating another 18 moose were taken there by  
26 those folks. That's more of an estimate. The other  
27 information is from reports that we got from the guide,  
28 outfitters.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: All those numbers, are they  
31 within the sustainable yield of projections?

32

33 MR. SHAFF: Yes, that's in an area that's  
34 -- I don't have the numbers right before me for a survey  
35 that we did, it's consistent with what was observed last  
36 year, two years ago. The numbers that are in the book that  
37 the State put out, on Page 69 of the book, includes both  
38 portions of the -- the lower portions of the Refuge and the  
39 other areas down south of the Refuge, the numbers would be  
40 consistent from what we have. I apologize for not having  
41 those numbers with me.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for  
44 Innoko?

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Any enforcement issues that  
47 you dealt with this fall that we should know about?

48

49 MR. SHAFF: We had undersized moose taken  
50 that was reported. The air taxi folks brought it out and



1 reported it upon return and we actually turned it over to  
2 the State to deal with, the State enforcement trooper in  
3 McGrath. We did have a fairly intense enforcement effort  
4 ourselves. We was out there on pretty much any good days  
5 that we could actually fly, we were out in the field  
6 checking hunters and checking.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more questions for  
9 Innoko? Henry.

10

11 MR. DEACON: How do you get your data on  
12 how many moose have been killed, is that through the State  
13 ticket?

14

15 MR. SHAFF: I'm sorry, could you.....

16

17 MR. DEACON: The State ticket, you know, if  
18 you kill a moose you send the ticket back out?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: His question is how do you  
21 compile your numbers on moose harvested?

22

23 MR. SHAFF: This was from what was reported  
24 by the guide, outfitters and the air taxis, they're  
25 required when they get their special use permit they're  
26 required to turn in a report on how many hunters they  
27 brought in, their success rate and their days in the field  
28 and I've taken that from them. I don't have an exact  
29 record because when we're out doing enforcement, we do  
30 record who brought them in and it follows true to what we  
31 saw.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: This wouldn't affect the  
38 hunting down in your area by boat, I don't think, Henry,  
39 this would be mostly the upper river; isn't that right?

40

41 MR. SHAFF: Yes. Most of this hunting  
42 takes place well above the existing Paradise controlled use  
43 area. Most of the hunters that are brought in by either  
44 the guide, outfitters or the air taxis drop off right at  
45 the very upper end of the Innoko River, the Northfork and  
46 the Innoko River where it enters the Refuge not far from  
47 Tokotna and Ophir and they hunt from there, probably, oh,  
48 40, 50 -- down to about 40 to 50 miles from that end of the  
49 Refuge, river miles down stream.

50

1 MR. DEACON: Mr. Chairman, yeah, I know  
2 there's more hunters than that in our area, you know,  
3 there's way more than that. So you have to notify the  
4 State, see how many harvest tickets they get from the  
5 villages -- from Bethel.

6  
7 MR. SHAFF: Yes, I didn't have the -- I  
8 don't have the information of all the hunters, this is what  
9 was taken in by the commercial air taxi and the guide,  
10 outfitters. I don't have what was taken in -- sport  
11 hunters that were brought in from down river by boat.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If  
14 not, I'd really like to thank you for remaining and staying  
15 behind and making your report brief.

16  
17 MR. SHAFF: Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

20  
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I think we have one more  
22 Fish and Wildlife Service report that would be the handouts  
23 that you just got. The Staff has been rotating back and  
24 forth to maintain schedules so there is Staff here to talk  
25 about the contaminant study that the Fish and Wildlife  
26 Service is looking at. So you have that colored handout  
27 that George passed out just a minute or two ago.

28  
29 MS. MATZ: Hi, my name is Angela Matz, I'm  
30 an environmental contaminants biologist for the Fish and  
31 Wildlife Service. My name and the name of the guy that's  
32 doing this study with me, Keith Mueller, we both work out  
33 of Fairbanks, that's on the back of that information sheet  
34 and mostly what we wanted to do today is let you know that  
35 we're planning this study. There's a lot of information on  
36 that fact sheet and we really want to get the word out to  
37 this group, to anybody who is interested in this study that  
38 we're going to do, it's on contaminants in salmon. We have  
39 a limited amount of money this year so we're not going to  
40 be able to sample in nearly as many places as people would  
41 like us to. Places we have chosen are two sites on the  
42 Yukon River and one on the Kuskokwim River, down near  
43 Bethel. We're going to be looking at both king and chum  
44 salmon. We're interested in salmon from the -- obviously  
45 from the fish population health standpoint and contaminants  
46 and obviously subsistence users are interested, very  
47 interested in contaminants in their foods.

48  
49 So I'd be happy to answer any further  
50 questions about that that you might have. But again,

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1 mostly what we want to do is let you know that we are  
2 planning this study for this summer. A lot of what we'd  
3 like to do with it is inform people that we're doing this  
4 and let people know the results. A big part of this, too,  
5 which is a little different from other contaminant studies  
6 that the Fish and Wildlife Service has done in the past is  
7 that we're going to take the data specifically and give it  
8 to public health agencies so that they can provide  
9 information from a public health standpoint for people who  
10 use these fish for subsistence purposes.

11  
12 And so I'd like to keep it brief, and with  
13 that I'll answer any questions that you have but also I  
14 want to emphasize that you can feel free to contact either  
15 Keith or myself and pass our names around so that anybody  
16 who's interested can contact us about this study.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, for your report.  
19 We sure appreciate it, even at this time of the day. Do we  
20 have any questions for Angela? Jack.

21  
22 MR. REAKOFF: Where are you going to take  
23 the contaminant samples from, the fat or the flesh of the  
24 salmon?

25  
26 MS. MATZ: We're going to take them from a  
27 variety of tissues. The one that -- the tissue that's of  
28 interest to subsistence consumers primarily are filets,  
29 we're also going to look at livers and kidneys and eggs as  
30 well. It's a huge study, a huge amount of data taking  
31 different types of -- measuring different types of  
32 contaminants as well as biomarkers, measures of effects and  
33 that's one of the reasons why we're sampling all those  
34 different organs.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?  
37 Again, thanks for your brief report, thanks for your  
38 brevity and we'll be in contact, I'm pretty sure, because  
39 as you noticed all day yesterday and all day today, our  
40 interests have been fishing issues. Thank you.

41  
42 MS. MATZ: Again, I just want to emphasize  
43 that the contact information is on the back of that sheet  
44 at the bottom. Thanks.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any more  
47 agencies Vince?

48  
49 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there may be some from  
50 the National Park Service that have some agency reports. I

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1 think Hollis has a report and there may be others.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Hollis.

4

5 MR. TWITCHELL: Hello, I'm Hollis Twitchell  
6 with Denali National Park. It's been a couple of years  
7 since I've had a chance to brief you on Denali issues. In  
8 light of the time I will be very brief about that as well.

9

10 I want to first of all start off and let  
11 you know that we paid special recognition and tribute to  
12 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission at their last  
13 meeting, recognizing that the combined membership have over  
14 98 years of service on the Commission in terms of the times  
15 that they've served. We have three members who have  
16 incredible amounts of dedication, Ray Collins has 19 years  
17 of service, Florence Collins from Lake Minchumina 19 years,  
18 Percy Dyke from Nenana 19 years, Steve Eluska from Talida  
19 15 years. So it's a, I think, very unique and very  
20 important thing to ourselves as an agency to have that  
21 longevity and that input through all these years and  
22 they've led us in great and good directions.

23

24 One of them was the SRCs recommendation  
25 that we're not doing enough to get information about  
26 cultural use and subsistence out to the visitor public  
27 that come to Denali and those that have questions about  
28 wolves in Denali and so this brochure that has been put  
29 together was based on the SRC's recommendation and if you  
30 have any interest I have some extras here you can pick up  
31 on your way out.

32

33 Also a couple of years ago I mentioned a  
34 number of studies that the Park was doing in conjunction  
35 with the tribal councils and elders and communities around  
36 Denali. We're starting to see the products of those now.  
37 I have with me copies of the ethnographic overview and  
38 assessment work that's been done at Denali. I'll leave  
39 this with your coordinator or if any of you have a  
40 particular interest, you can pick that up.

41

42 As part of that project, we also worked  
43 with the tribal councils of Cantwell, Nickoli, Talida and  
44 Tanana through a separate contract with those tribal  
45 councils for them to prepare their own histories in their  
46 own words or to identify the things that they felt  
47 important for us, as an agency and the public to know about  
48 their communities. So with me, also I'll leave with you,  
49 the village histories that were prepared.

50 I'd like to take this time to give special

1 recognition to Ray Collins who was contracted by the tribal  
2 councils of Nickoli and Talida to prepare the village  
3 histories for them in conjunction with their elders and the  
4 council. You have a very significant piece of work right  
5 here by a member of your Council representing those two  
6 communities. And I say it is significant in terms of what  
7 it documents and also its depth. The ethnographic overview  
8 and assessment, if paper is any indication, there was a lot  
9 of work and effort that was put into this piece of work.  
10 So those are available for any of you that have an interest  
11 in looking at those.

12  
13 Just a couple other items, we, at Denali,  
14 have been concerned that we didn't have good information on  
15 community use, profile information for some of our  
16 communities around Denali and the information that we have,  
17 we were concerned that it was not as in-depth and we will  
18 be going into those communities to try to get a more in-  
19 depth and fuller record of what the communities use patterns  
20 and harvest are. We hire local people in the communities  
21 to assist with the interviews and the mapping with that  
22 project. We've completed Cantwell and will be going into  
23 Lake Minchumina and Talida this year and we'll be going  
24 into Nickoli the following years.

25  
26 One of the recommendations from Ray Collins  
27 at the SRC meeting is that we need to do more together,  
28 historical fisheries information as well as traditional  
29 ecological knowledge in terms of the fisheries resources  
30 associated with Denali. And as such, based on that  
31 recommendation we've moved forward a proposal to the Fish  
32 and Wildlife Service to pick up that component in our  
33 community use profile work and we're very happy to see that  
34 that works going to be done.

35  
36 The last thing I'd like to mention is that  
37 we're going to be hiring an intern to do work in cultural  
38 and subsistence resources with me at Denali. This is a  
39 full-time position that will have career ladder and  
40 advancement elements built into it. So we are just now  
41 beginning the process of looking for people who come from  
42 our region, who have knowledge and interest for this  
43 internship so we'll be recruiting from around our region  
44 and we've also made contact with the University, Oscar  
45 Quaigely and he's getting us in contact with other people  
46 at the campus level who might be good candidates.

47  
48 So with that I'll close and, thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Hollis. I do

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1 have one question, do we have any appointments to make or  
2 do we make these appointments to your resource committee?  
3

4 MR. TWITCHELL: We're in good shape in  
5 terms of representation from this region at the Commission.  
6 Currently, we have Ray Collins who is on our Commission.  
7 He's appointed by the Secretary and we also have Steve  
8 Eluska who was just reappointed again by the State from the  
9 community of Talida. So we do have representation from  
10 both those communities.  
11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the Western Interior does  
13 have two people on board then?  
14

15 MR. TWITCHELL: People from the  
16 communities.  
17

18 MR. COLLINS: By others, but we are  
19 covered.  
20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that was my  
22 question, do we appoint or is this different? Jack.  
23

24 MR. REAKOFF: That internship program, that  
25 position will work with you training another subsistence  
26 coordinator and you as the mentor to pass on the baton so  
27 that we don't have -- that's what I've had a problem with,  
28 with the Park Service personnel, is that, we the SRCs, the  
29 subsistence users train a position and then that person  
30 moves on or goes to Washington or something and we have  
31 these breaks. Is this throughout the regionwide Park  
32 Service program, this internship program or is that just at  
33 Denali?  
34

35 MR. TWITCHELL: It's just at Denali and  
36 it's directed essentially to try to achieve that sort of  
37 balance. We've also had the concerns from our SRCs saying  
38 similar things, that if you have someone that's been on the  
39 Commission as long as Ray and Florence and Percy, they've  
40 seen a lot of superintendents come through the Park Service  
41 and other staff, so this is one way we're going to try to  
42 achieve a little bit of continuity in terms of persons. I  
43 don't think I'm going to go to Washington any time soon but  
44 a number of years from now I may move on and we want to  
45 ensure the program continues.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Good.  
48

49 MR. REAKOFF: I would commend Denali NPS  
50 for that program. I think that that could be a direction

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1 for the Park Service in the future. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd like to thank  
6 Hollis and the Park, too, of all the years I've served on  
7 the Advisory Committee. This is what they presented us for  
8 the members, a nice Eddie Bauer coat. I just mention that  
9 for some of the other agencies that got a lot of  
10 volunteers, it's nice to be recognized after a number of  
11 years service. Thank you Hollis.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Are there  
14 anymore questions? Thank you, again, Hollis. Any other  
15 agencies?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: I don't think the Park  
18 Service has any other reports.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, we may be the slowest  
21 Council in the state but you will note that we are well  
22 informed and if we are not, we make sure that you are, the  
23 agencies are, so I'd like to thank all of you for bearing  
24 with us. The next item on the agenda would be Council  
25 member closings.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: No, it would be  
28 correspondence sent and received and that, briefly is under  
29 Tab G. And you've had it before you in the mailing and  
30 there's a summary there and if there's any questions on  
31 correspondence then I can take it now. But it's summarized  
32 under Tab G and copies of the letter are there also.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Council members, closing  
35 comments and concerns. Do we want to go through this  
36 anyway or do we just.....

37

38 MR. COLLINS: I don't have any.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray doesn't have any.  
41 Jack.

42

43 MR. REAKOFF: I always got something to  
44 say. At the Gates of the Arctic SRC level, we passed our  
45 hunting plan that we've been working on, it's a lot like  
46 Denali has produced. And that hunting plan will be very  
47 beneficial to the management of the subsistence resources  
48 in the park. It's a living document so we can adjust and  
49 fine-tune it in the future. Our last SRC meeting for Gates  
50 of the Arctic was around the middle of November and it was

1 a fairly productive meeting. And Pollack Simon is chair of  
2 that SRC and does a very good job. He's one of our longer  
3 standing members and I've only been on there 10 years but  
4 Pollack does an excellent job as chair and he is appointed  
5 by this Council. So that's my comment on the Gates of the  
6 Arctic SRC.

7

8 I think we've had a very productive meeting  
9 here this cycle. And I feel we might spend a little more  
10 time than some of the other councils but we get some pretty  
11 good work done, too, but that's just part of the job is  
12 limping in here and toughing it out. So we might be the  
13 slowest one but I think we've had a very productive meeting  
14 and I appreciate all the work that the Council members have  
15 put in and all the work that the Staff has put into these  
16 meetings. There's a lot of time, I realize the weeks of  
17 time that's put into these analysis so I appreciate all  
18 that. And hopefully that we're going to make some  
19 difference here for the benefit of the resource and the  
20 users.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for those kind  
25 words, Jack. And again, just to reiterate what Jack says,  
26 we might be the slowest because I've been barking at all  
27 the other Chairs because -- letting them know specifically  
28 that we have four distinct different cultures within our  
29 region, Western Interior. We have people of all colors and  
30 races up and down and within our boundaries and that's one  
31 of the reasons that we are slow and we will give people  
32 time to express their concerns. Anymore Council concerns.  
33 Again, thank you, Jack. Next item on our agenda is  
34 meeting, place and time.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, under Tab  
37 H you have a calendar. The window for meetings of fall are  
38 September 10th through October 19th. So if you look at  
39 that calendar, and Eastern Interior has selected the dates  
40 of October 9, 10, 11 and you have Staff that overlaps both  
41 regions so that time is pretty much taken up. And also I  
42 need to let you know that AFN is scheduled for October 14th  
43 through 20th.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

46

47 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I suggest we  
48 look at the week of October 2, 3, 4, in there, and I would  
49 also suggest you consider McGrath, it's been quite a while  
50 since we met there, that you might give us some



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1 consideration. But there may be other suggestions, I don't  
2 want to preempt anybody else that has other suggestions.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, for your  
5 concerns. We had inked in McGrath for this meeting.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: But then with the fisheries  
10 and Iditarod we changed it here to have a joint meeting  
11 with the Eastern Interior. So without further adieu it  
12 will be in McGrath. Our fall meeting will be in McGrath.  
13 I just question the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, because do you think  
14 we'll have all the data on the fall hunting and fishing  
15 stuff?

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: No, you wouldn't have all the  
18 data from the fall hunts that transpired in September, if  
19 that's what you're asking.

20

21 MR. SHERROD: They'll be taking up fish.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, right, and the other  
24 thing I need to point out is that it's getting hard for us  
25 Staff to keep track of this but basically the intent of the  
26 fall meeting will be to look at proposals from the  
27 fisheries side that will be before you as well as looking  
28 at wildlife issues. So the main point on the fall meeting  
29 will be dealing with fish proposals. And, to-date, and  
30 that's just until today, we've only received one proposal  
31 but we're projecting that when the due date comes a lot  
32 closer there'll be a lot more proposals for you to look at  
33 on fishery issues on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince. So would  
36 it be okay for all the Council members to meet on October  
37 2nd, 3rd and 4th at McGrath? Is this a consensus?

38

39 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

40

41 (Nods affirmatively and unanimously)

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, McGrath 2nd through  
44 the 4th. I don't want to meet into the weekends anyway.  
45 Vince.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to  
48 kind of going to put Henry on the hot seat here. If I  
49 understand correctly, this will be Henry's last meeting.  
50 As you know there's three seats open on the Council and

1 each of those members have the opportunity to reapply.  
2 Henry, I believe, is retiring from this process so he may  
3 want to have some parting words or he may have parting  
4 words at me, I'm not sure which, but if I understand  
5 correctly this would be his last meeting.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry, do you have some  
8 words for us?

9 MR. DEACON: Well, yeah, I was kind of --  
10 the reason I -- I'm kind of having second thoughts now, but  
11 it's too late, you know. Because I really enjoy this  
12 meeting here because it involves our way of life in the  
13 village. And we as a Federal agency, you know, it's very  
14 interesting for me. But I was too late to reapply and I  
15 kind of thought about it, because I'd like to see younger  
16 people take over, it's got to be that way. And it's my  
17 wish to see people like you that take really interest. I  
18 have interest, too, but you know, I'm 72 years old, so, you  
19 know, can go any time. But you know, I really enjoy this  
20 and now I kind of have second thoughts and I might apply  
21 yet, just write-in, you know?

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Henry, I talked to several  
26 supervisors, no, the window's closed. I got on bending  
27 knee and didn't get anywhere. No, the window's closed for  
28 this round, you could reapply next year. But Henry, there  
29 was quite a few from your area that did apply. I won't go  
30 through all the names but it's more than we've had at any  
31 other time that we've had any nominations and Henry, I know  
32 you were behind that because they used your name when they  
33 called me for applications. So that's what I would  
34 appreciate and the program appreciates, when a member  
35 potentially decides to move on to other things that they  
36 encourage others to apply, that helps us tremendously  
37 because we have to cover geographic diversity and you want  
38 representation across the region. So I know that you  
39 talked to a lot of these gentlemen that applied because  
40 they said, yeah, Henry told me to apply.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: I, too, would like to thank  
43 Henry for doing. I've been calling and calling people from  
44 that area to, to not only apply but to express their  
45 concerns and until they started doing that today, it made  
46 me happy that we went ahead and did what they wanted us to  
47 do, which was to help Henry on this last proposal. I would  
48 just like to recognize Henry as an elder, too, that our  
49 elders, that when they think they're going to retire, they  
50 start asking younger people to step in and I'd like to

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1 thank Henry for doing that. Thank you, Henry.

2

3 MR. DEACON: Thank you

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Next.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Just adjournment is next

8 unless someone else.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not yet, I've got one. I'd  
11 like to thank Vince for putting on the dinner for both the  
12 Eastern Interior and Western Interior and the agency staff.  
13 I think we got some positive feedback from sitting around  
14 out there. Any more closing comments. Jack.

15

16 MR. REAKOFF: Since this is Henry's last  
17 time with us I appreciate your dedication to coming to our  
18 meetings and understanding all the issues with us. And  
19 that statement that you could go at any time, is not true,  
20 that you'll have many more years and see the return of the  
21 king salmon to the Yukon River and the chum salmon. So I  
22 appreciate your work here, Henry.

23

24 MR. DEACON: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any more comments.

27 Benedict.

28

29 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd just like to thank  
30 Henry for serving with us for the last three years that  
31 I've been with -- and I'd like to thank the committee for  
32 selecting me to work with the Western Caribou Herd Working  
33 Committee, which I was involved with the Koyukuk River  
34 moose management planning committee for the last two years.  
35 And I appreciate you for appointing me to the Western  
36 Caribou Herd, which I've learned quite a bit on how the  
37 satellite tracking and all that and what's the mortality of  
38 the caribou and all that. I think we did a lot in this  
39 meeting and I want to thank all the Staff and everybody.  
40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further  
43 closing comment. If not, the Chair will entertain a motion  
44 to adjourn. Is there a motion?

45

46 MR. JONES: I make a motion.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion by  
49 Benedict, is there a second?

50

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1 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Seconded by Jack. Without  
4 further adieu, all those in favor of adjournment signify by  
5 saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you all again for your  
13 attendance and your perseverance in bearing with us. Thank  
14 you.

15

16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

17 \* \* \* \* \*

